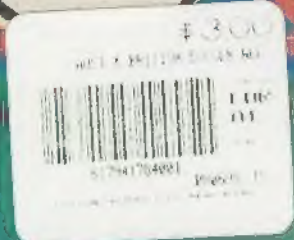


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SOCCER

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1998/99 ERICSSON CUP WINNERS

SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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THIS WEEK...

3Australian News
 4.....FIFA World Stars Clash
 5.....FIFA World Stars Clash
 6.....FIFA World Stars Clash
 7.....FIFA World Stars Clash
 8.....Australian features
 9.....Australian features
 10.....Australian Soccer Woman
 11.....NSW Super League
 12.....Queensland
 13.....Victoria Premier League
 14.....Victoria League
 15.....Soccer Canberra
 16.....SOUTH MELBOURNE CHAMPIONS
 17.....SOUTH MELBOURNE CHAMPIONS

18Global Game Cover
 19Asia
 20Africa
 21South America
 22North America
 23Scandinavia
 24Italy
 25Europe
 26Europe
 27Europe
 28UK
 29UK
 30UK
 31UK

REMINDER

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Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular football code in their recent Net site poll.

NEWS FLASH

Carlton Chairman, Justin Madden announced that star Carlton Soccer Club midfielder Marco Bresciano, has signed a prestigious four year deal with Italian club Empoli. Bresciano joins former Carlton player Vince Grella at Empoli.

Bresciano commented, "I am extremely excited about playing for Empoli.

"They are a great club in Europe and I am confident about proving myself in one of the toughest leagues in the world."

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OLD RIVALS ALL SQUARE

The first leg of the Kennard Cup was played at a thrilling pace as Sydney University and the University of NSW played out a 2-2 draw in what was somewhat of an upset considering the relative positions of the two on the table.

Honours were even at the end of the University derby where all four goals were scored in the first 34 minutes.

University of NSW shocked their visitors when newcomer, Sydney Olympic guest Ante Juric, whose brother is a regular member of the side, opened the scoring after less than 30 seconds.

Juric volleyed in a cross from the right at the near post to the delight of the home crowd at the Village Green.

Juric was at it again in the 26th when he cut back inside from the right and drilled his shot past the keeper who

appeared unsighted.

At 2-0, the UNSW were clearly on top but in a game played at 100 miles an hour, it was only a matter of time until Sydney scored.

In the 33rd minute, Sydney University pulled one back through a short corner.

The ball was crossed into the box by Buddis to the far post where a throng of players were waiting and popular David Gill was able to head home.

Gordon Pitt levelled the scores in the 34th when his attempted cross flew into the roof of the net from just inside the area, wide on the right.

NSW could have clambered back to win the game when Rob Juric was presented with a loose ball inside the box in the 89th, but he failed to connect and his team had to settle for a point.

Sydney were without Rob Smithies,



The Kennard Cup

while UNSW are looking to further strengthen the side with the inclusion of another Ericsson Cup star as a guest in future weeks.



Action from the Kennard Cup clash between UNSW and Sydney University. The first leg finished 2-2.

GLORIOUS PLAYER AWARDS

By Richard Kreider

Scott Miller and Danny Hay could not be separated after an entire season of voting for the 'Most Glorious Player' awards held at the Hyatt Regency in Perth.

Both players polled 60 votes followed by goalkeeper Tony Franken, who got 47 votes with Robert Trajkovski back on 40 points.

A panel of three who were picked out at random each week, voted on a 3-2-1 basis.

Miller was a consistent performer missing only two games throughout the

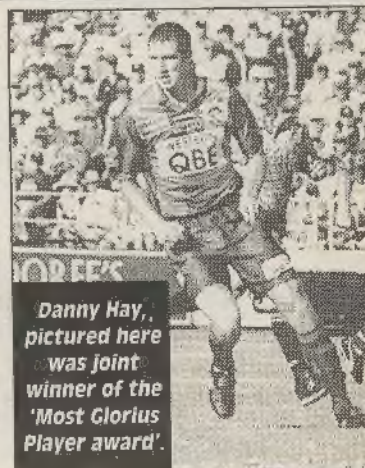
season. Miller also proved popular with the fans winning the supporters player of the year award as well.

Danny Hay, who was joint winner of the most glorious player award, was unable to attend the function as he is in Germany trialing with first division side, VfB Stuttgart.

Paul Strudwick was awarded the 'Healthway Coaches Award', as decided by Bernd Stange and Mitch d'Avray.

Tony Franken was the winner of the 'Sony Clubman award'.

Miller, Strudwick and Franken are amongst the lowest paid of the squad members at Glory.



Danny Hay, pictured here was joint winner of the 'Most Glorious Player award'.

Australian News

VIERI AT MARCONI

By John Economos

Club Marconi Directors have organised Italian World Cup star striker Christian Vieri to make a special guest appearance next Tuesday night, the 15th of June, at the Club's Annual Presentation Dinner.

The burly 25 year old goal ace has strong ties with Marconi, having played for the club 11 years ago in both the Under 13 and Under 14 teams.



Christian Vieri

The champion Italian striker will arrive in Sydney on Friday morning after having just played for Italy against Switzerland in a Euro 2000 qualifier.

Superstar Vieri, who was born in Italy, then migrated to Sydney with his parents as a four year old when his then famous father Roberto was brought out to first play, then coach the Marconi NSL team.

At the age of 15, Vieri, who in those days loved cricket more than soccer, followed his parents when they returned to Italy.

Within four years, the strongly built Vieri broke into the big time of Italian Soccer with Atalanta before graduating to the giants of Italy, Juventus.

Juventus after having paid Atalanta \$1million for the strapping young striker, sold Vieri one season later to Spain's Atletico Madrid.

The former Marconi junior is today one of the world's most expensive strikers.

Vieri's current Serie A team, Lazio, last year handed over an astronomical \$52 million transfer fee to Atletico Madrid for Vieri's release to Rome where he linked up with fellow Australian, Paul Okon.

The powerful international marksman who stunned Europe's media when he disclosed that former Australian cricket captain, Allan Border was in fact his sporting idol, will this Saturday spearhead the FIFA World XI's attack at Stadium Australia in Homebush against Raul Blanco's Australian side.

Vieri was awarded FIFA's Bronze Boot last year, having scored five goals for Italy in last years World Cup in France.

Club Marconi Directors have been desperately attempting to entice former Australian cricket captain, Allan Border to next Tuesday evening's Awards Night so that Vieri can meet his hero.

Marconi Awards Night

Leading candidates listed to take out Marconi's "Players' Player of The Year" award are, Francis Awaritefe, Dominic Longo and Brad Maloney.

The nominees favoured to score Marconi's "Supporters choice for Player Of The Year" trophy are, Zeljko Babic, Christian Care, Francis Awaritefe, Brendan Renaud and Brad Maloney.

Other Awards and listed candidates are, "Youth Player Of The Year" candidates are, Michael Beachamp, Victor Tomacevic and Deunim Huseyin.

"Colts Player Of The Year" candidates are, Saso Trajceviski, Daniel Schwarzer (Mark's younger brother) and Joseph Iorfino.

Marconi Juniors

Meanwhile, in other news at Marconi, the Under 11s and Under 12s will travel to Brisbane next month to play three matches, one of which will be against the Brisbane City juniors.

At a special fund raising dinner, the Marconi Juniors raised a fabulous \$12,000 towards financing their inaugural 'State of Origin' Challenge.

The young Marconi squads leave on July 10 and return July 17.

BOSNICH BECOMES A Devil

Mark Bosnich has signed a four-year contract to replace Peter Schmeichel as Manchester United goalkeeper after completing his free transfer from Aston Villa, agreeing to a deal believed to be worth almost \$18 million.

Bosnich declared at a press conference unveiling the new United goalkeeper, that, "The challenge is to see whether or not I can fill Peter Schmeichel's shoes. It's going to be a huge task but we will have to wait and see."



Aussie Mark Bosnich has finally signed for Manchester United.

his English girlfriend which meant the need for a work permit disappeared.

But to United boss Alex Ferguson's initial anger, Bosnich opted for Aston Villa rather than returning to Old Trafford after his Australian adventure.

"Alex hasn't said anything about that to me. If he was still angry with me about it, surely I would not be standing here now," said Bosnich.

Bosnich claimed that though he signed under the Bosman ruling, there should be no grudges between his new club and his old one.

"If there is any animosity, it is only from their end. All I can say is that I am deeply grateful to Villa for giving me my chance to fulfil my dream of playing in the Premier League.

"From my point of view everything has worked out well, I have had the chance to develop as a goalkeeper at Aston Villa."

Aston Villa though, must be feeling some animosity over the Bosnich signing.

Villa has lost the chance to pocket a small fortune from the sale of Bosnich as his move to Manchester was under the Bosman ruling.

Bosnich will join former Villa star Dwight Yorke at United who moved at the start of the season just completed.

To those ready to make the inevitable comparisons, Bosnich added, "I am a confident person but I am not as good a goalkeeper as Peter Schmeichel.

"The work now starts for me to step into his boots, and only time will tell if I can do that.

"But I do have a really contented feeling now. I have never forgotten the three years I spent here before."

The signing has made Bosnich Australia's highest paid soccer star and one our highest paid sportsmen in the world.

Mark Bosnich may make his debut for his new club on Manchester United's tour of Australia in July, where he may have to choose between his new club or his country.

* More news on Mark Bosnich on page 30

Colosimo linked to European club

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Carlton's Simon Colosimo has been linked with a third European club within the space of two weeks.

After spending a couple of days with Greek giants Panathinaikos, Colosimo returned home to link up with the Olyroos for their training camp in Canberra and New South Wales.

Claims in the Greek media that Colosimo had signed with Panathinaikos whilst in Greece were way off the mark.

Colosimo's visit also brought interest from Panathinaikos' rivals, Olympiakos, who also declared themselves interested in securing the young Aussie's signature.

Colosimo came back to Australia to join the Olyroo camp, but pulled out and was soon on his way back overseas again, this time to Germany for a trial with European Cup runners-up and German Champions, Bayern Munich.

Colosimo, rejected the chance to trial with Italian club Empoli, home of former Carlton team mate Vince Grella, immediately after the World Youth Championships in Nigeria.

Before the beginning of the last Ericsson Cup season, he looked set to join Blackburn Rovers after impressing in trials, but the young star got injured and returned

home to Australia.

Another Olyroo, Con Blatis, may be leaving South Melbourne.

Blatis has, for a number of weeks now, been linked with Olympiakos.

It is understood that Blatis, who had an injury-interrupted season, will travel to Greece for a trial with Olympiakos who were quarter-finalists in this season's Champion's League.

Meanwhile, new Carlton coach Stuart Munro has made his first signing, bringing in defender Craig Deans from Perth Glory.

Deans, who came close to joining Melbourne Knights last season, played only a handful of games for the Glory.

The Olyroo squad has suffered a blow with the withdrawal of Marco Bresciano and Sydney Olympic's Jason Cullina.

The pair have pulled out due to injuries, Bresciano injured a knee whilst he was trialing for Italian side, Empoli whereas Cullina has a groin strain.

The two are replaced by South Melbourne's, George Goutzoulis and Sydney United's Micheal Santalab.

Meanwhile, the Olyroos will play two games against the New Zealand Under 23 side in New Zealand.

The games will be held on June 30 and on the week-end of July 4 and 5.

United chairman Martin Edwards said, "The manager (Alex Ferguson) decided on Mark as the replacement for Schmeichel some while ago.

"We have not been able to talk to him until the end of the season, although foreign clubs have been able to." "We had to sit and wait and hope that Mark didn't lose patience and go somewhere else."

Bosnich said that the chance of replacing Schmeichel was the main bait for his return to Manchester United.

"I could not have found myself sitting in Italy or Spain, having turned down the chance to follow Peter Schmeichel. I could not have looked at myself in the mirror if I had done that.

"United have had a fantastic season, and Schmeichel is going to be a hard act to follow. My main concern is being part of the continuity here to keep the club going forward. I just want to be part of a successful future here.

"Manchester had the greatest goalkeeper in the world in Peter Schmeichel and I could not see the opportunity of playing first team football with him around.

"If I can blend into the background and nobody notices the change, that will be fine by me."

Although Bosnich has now signed for United, the Aussie keeper left the English giants under bad terms, especially with manager, Alex Ferguson.

Bosnich left Old Trafford in 1992 to play for Ericsson Cup side, Sydney United.

Upon his return to England, Bosnich married



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FIFA World Stars Clash

THE NEW SOCCEROO TEAM

Profiles by Dwyght Tuffnell

Raul Blanco's Socceroo squad for the June 12 clash against the FIFA World Stars has been left one short with the withdrawal of Craig Foster.

Foster had a knee operation in England a couple of weeks ago, after sustaining an injury that required immediate surgery.

He joins the likes of Paul Agostino, Craig Moore and Nick Rizzo, who'll miss the game through injury.

MARK BOSNICH

Manchester United, England

Recently joined the new European Champions, Manchester United, the club where he started his overseas career.

It just shows the high esteem Bosnich is held in when United signed him to replace the great Peter Schmeichel.

He recovered from a shoulder injury suffered near the start of the season, to force his way back into the Aston Villa side, but was then dropped by manager John Gregory after he refused to make a decision on his future.

Bosnich is amongst the top five goalkeepers in the world, if not the best.

Bosnich, a goalkeeper who has been dogged by controversy over the last couple of years, has fallen out at different times with Soccer Australia, but still remains our most recognised talent.



ZELJKO KALAC

Roda JC, Holland

The former Sydney United beanpole is the second goalkeeper in the squad.

Kalac has now established himself in Holland with Roda JC after unsuccessful attempts to forge a career in England with Wolves and Leicester City.

'Spider' is an outstanding goalkeeper, but will always have a problem displacing Bosnich as the Socceroos number one 'keeper, which is unfortunate because he has never let the Socceroos down.

But having so many quality goalkeepers to choose from, Kalac has done well to get the number two spot.



PAUL OKON

Lazio, Italy

One of the world's unluckiest players when it comes to injuries.

Okon has been held back with knee problems since joining Lazio from Club Brugge in Belgium, but now, thankfully, he seems to be getting over those problems.

Still missed Lazio's European Cup-Winners Cup victory, but reports he had broken his leg were wide of the mark.

The Socceroos have sorely missed Okon over the last couple of years and most Australians have never quite seen the best of him. Hopefully, he can start a long sequence of injury-free appearances for the Socceroos starting with this game.



HAYDEN FOXE

Sanfrecce Hiroshima, Japan

A lot of Australians will never have seen Foxe play, in the flesh that is.

He moved from the AIS straight to Ajax, then to German club Arminia Bielefeld before joining former Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson at Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

For those who haven't seen him play, he is an extremely talented player, one of our most promising youngsters.

At 21, he has already represented Australia at many various levels and his selection in this match will be great experience for the 2000 Olympics, of which he is expected to be an integral part.



ALEX TOBIN

Adelaide City

Leading the Socceroos out against the FIFA World Stars at Stadium Australia is going to be the crowning moment in Alex Tobin's career.

A legend of Australian soccer and veteran of three World Cup campaigns, Tobin is one of Australia's best players not to have played overseas.

In the past he has marked the likes of Gabriel Batistuta, Gary Lineker and Jean-Pierre Papin, so Christian Vieri, George Weah and co. won't frighten the indefatigable Tobin.

His performances for Australia have always been superb, expect nothing less from him in the big game.



KEVIN MUSCAT

Wolves, England

This is the sort of game that the tough-tackling Muscat will love, although it doesn't take much to fire him up.

The tough side of his game has often got him into trouble in England, but there's much more to his game than his rugged approach suggests.

Muscat has thrived since leaving South Melbourne to go to England where he has enjoyed success, initially with Crystal Palace, whom he helped gain promotion to the Premier League.

He now plays with Steve Corica at Wolves and has played almost every game since joining the club in 1997.



TONY POPOVIC

Sanfrecce Hiroshima, Japan

Another player who has come off the Sydney United production-line, Popovic is doing well at Sanfrecce Hiroshima, where he plays with fellow Aussies Hayden Foxe and Aurelio Vidmar.

Popovic has not always been a regular for the Socceroos with the likes of Milan Ivanovic and Steve Horvat keeping him out.

He did play in the last Socceroo game, a forgettable friendly against the United States.



SIMON COLOSIMO

Carlton SC

With Colosimo undertaking European trials on an almost weekly basis, this may be the last we see of him before the 2000 Olympics.

He burst onto the scene with Carlton last season and since, he has come a long way in such a short time.

At just 20 years of age, Colosimo has an outstanding future ahead of him, and it is only a matter of time before he does move to Europe.

He made his debut for the senior Socceroo side against the USA and, at the same time, was skipper of the Young Socceroos and a key member of the Olyroos.



TONY VIDMAR

Rangers, Scotland

Capped off a fine season in Scotland a couple of weeks ago by winning the Cup Final to add to his Championship and League Cup winners medals at Rangers.

His second season with Rangers was undoubtedly his best, he made the left wing-back position his own after an injury to Dutch international, Artur Numan.

Vidmar joined Rangers from Dutch club NAC Breda and will next season play in his second Champions League campaign.



BRETT EMERTON

Sydney Olympic

Emerton, like the four other Olyroos in this squad, will gain a lot of experience from this game for the 2000 Olympics.

Like Colosimo, it seems that he has played just about every game at all levels Australia has played recently.

The Olyroo skipper didn't have a fantastic season with Sydney Olympic, and that wasn't helped by the Young Socceroos early exit from the World Youth Championships.

But he still is arguably Australia's finest young player at the moment and with an overseas move coming sooner or later, this game represents a chance to impress European clubs.



NED ZELIC

1860 Munich, Germany

Zelic has been back to his best form in this season's Bundesliga with 1860 Munich.

He has excelled at all levels of Australian soccer and is one of our very best players.

Zelic grabbed the world's attention at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, earning himself a move to Borussia Dortmund.

He then moved to England for a stint best forgotten with Queens Park Rangers.

Injuries and a struggle to settle in London had QPR loaning him back to the Bundesliga with Eintracht Frankfurt.

They were relegated but Zelic joined 1860, and has been rediscovering his form ever since.



VINCE GRELLA

Empoli, Italy

Grella, the squad's youngest player at 19, has had a dream last 12 months.

To be fair, Grella was having a hard time establishing himself at Carlton and a move was probably the best thing for him.

A move to struggling Serie A club, Empoli, represented an exciting opportunity for Grella.

He made his debut against the mighty Juventus not long after arriving in Italy and a permanent deal with Empoli could soon be struck.

Another player who will play a big part next year at the Olympics, Grella has become an even better player since moving to Europe.



JOSIP SKOKO

Hajduk Split, Croatia

Skoko, like Foxe, is a player that we haven't seen at National League level in Australia.

He attended the AIS and played for North Geelong before moving to Croatian side Hajduk Split.

There, he has been very successful, gaining European experience along the way.

After a few years with Hajduk, he is now looking for a move to a stronger league.

Skoko was a member of the Olyroo squad which went to Atlanta in 1996 and has been a regular member of Socceroo squads for the past couple of years.



QUESTION?

WHO DEFEATED AUSTRALIA IN THE CONFEDERATIONS CUP FINAL LAST YEAR?

ANSWER: ON THE NEXT PAGE

FIFA World Stars Clash

STAN LAZARIDIS

West Ham, England



Lazaridis, terrific for West Ham last season, struggled this season to find his way into the side.

He was injured for a period of time and when he did play, his great form from previous season's had returned.

He was linked with a move away from Upton Park, but West Ham still insisted that he was a much required player.

It was hard to see why he spent much of the time on the outer. His form from the season before was excellent, with his skill and dribbling abilities making him a real crowd favourite.

This game will give him opportunity to show West Ham that he is worthy of more appearances, should he still be at Upton Park next season.

STEVE CORICA

Wolves, England



Corica, like Okon, has had wretched luck with injuries in recent years, stalling a promising career in Europe.

He moved from Marconi to Leicester City and then onto Wolves where fellow Aussie Kevin Muscat plays.

Two serious leg injuries have slowed down his progress at Wolves, although he did make more of an impact as the season came to a close.

His cruel run of injuries has meant that appearances for the Socceroos have been limited, but now back to full fitness, he will play a bigger role in the team.

JOHN ALOISI

Coventry City, England



Aloisi is yet another Australian who we haven't seen play in the Ericsson Cup.

From a young age, he moved to Belgium to play with Antwerp before going to Italy to play Serie A with Cremonese, whom he scored for on debut.

His goalscoring exploits attracted the interest of then-Socceroo coach, Terry Venables, who then brought him to the club he was chairman of, Portsmouth.

Aloisi scored a bag full of goals for the First Division club but they were in dire financial trouble and sold him to Premier League side Coventry City where he scored five goals in a

short time at the club.

HARRY KEWELL

Leeds United, England



The Socceroos most popular player, Kewell is the one of the best young players in the world at the moment.

After a slow start to the season, Kewell was in terrific form for the remainder of the year as he helped Leeds to a spot in the UEFA Cup.

Still only 20 years old, Kewell has been the subject of much speculation recently as to a possible move to either Italy or Spain.

But he has quashed those thoughts by signing a new contract with Leeds, but he does plan a move to the continent when he is in his mid-20's.

It's the first chance that Australians have to see him play live since the Iran game, and probably the last before the Olympics next year.

MARK VIDUKA

Celtic, Scotland



Viduka is the best striker Australia has.

Good in the air, even better with the ball at his feet, he could become the best player Australia has ever produced.

After an unbelievably successful time with the Melbourne Knights, Viduka moved to Europe to play with Croatia Zagreb.

He could no longer stay with Zagreb after a hate campaign by supporters and the media against him, eventually joining Scottish club, Celtic.

The period it took to link up with Celtic made headline news both here and in Scotland.

Once he was mentally okay, he has since showed Scotland and the rest of the world what he is capable of.

AURELIO VIDMAR

Sanfrecce Hiroshima, Japan



Aurelio Vidmar has been something of a wanderer since leaving Australia to pursue an overseas career all those years ago.

His travels have taken him to Belgium, Holland, Spain and finally Japan, where he plays under Eddie Thompson at Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

Vidmar was the Belgian league's top scorer with Standard Liege but he then stagnated when he should have gone on to better things.

A disastrous spell with Feyenoord was followed by an even worse stint with Tenerife in Spain.

But all along, Vidmar has remained one of the Socceroos most consistent and best players.



Socceroos World Stars



BERNARD LAMA (France)

Paris St Germain, France



Former goalkeeper for the French national team, Lama lost his place when he tested positive for cannabis use back in 1997, whilst playing for Paris St Germain and was subsequently banned for a year.

The 36 year old then went on loan to West Ham for a season in the English Premier League before returning to France to play with PSG.

Forced his way into the French squad for the '98 World Cup, but couldn't displace Fabien Barthez as number one.

JULIO CESAR (Brazil)

Panathinaikos, Greece

Veteran defender who was in the Brazilian squad for the 1986 and 1990 World Cups.

Best remembered for successful stints in Europe with Juventus and Borussia Dortmund.

Returned home to Brazil before being asked to come back to Dortmund.

The 36 year old wasn't there for very long though, in March he was sold to Greek club Panathinaikos.

JAVIER MARGAS (Chile)

West Ham, England



After impressing with Chile at the 1998 World Cup, English Premier League side West Ham signed him from Universidad Catolica.

Made only a handful of appearances in the last season before sustaining an injury that saw him return to Chile and now looks almost certain to be leaving the Hammers.

The 29 year old defender played against Australia when the Chilean national team were here last year.

NIKOS DABIZAS (Greece)

Newcastle United, England



Dabizas, who has 20-odd caps for Greece, has spent the last two years playing with Newcastle in England.

Signed from Olympiakos, Dabizas was a regular under then manager Kenny Dalglish with his presence in aerial battles a feature of his game.

Current manager, Ruud Gullit, has told the 25 year old that he doesn't feature in his future plans, despite him being one of Newcastle's top scorers last season.

JORGE CAMPOS (Mexico)

UNAM Pumas, Mexico



Campos is Mexico's most popular modern-day player.

Famous for his garish goalkeeping outfits, he has also played, and scored, as a striker for both club and country.

Plays with UNAM Pumas in Mexico and also with MLS side, Los Angeles Galaxy.

The 31 year old is nearing 100 caps for the Mexican national side.

Recently made the headlines when his father was kidnapped back in home in Mexico.

LUCAS RADEBE (South Africa)

Leeds United, England

30 year old Radebe is skipper of both Leeds United and the South African national team, whom he led to the '98 World Cup.

Radebe struggled initially at Leeds but then blossomed under former manager George Graham and is now one of the most popular players at Elland Road.

Captained his country to success at the African Nations Cup in 1996 and again to the final, where they lost to Egypt, in 1998.

Will face his Leeds teammate Harry Kewell.

ANSWER

BRAZIL DEFEATED AUSTRALIA BY 6 GOALS
TO NIL IN SAUDI ARABIA.

FIFA World Stars Clash

THE FIFA WORLD STARS

Profiles by Dwyght Tuffnell

RIGOBERT SONG (Cameroon)

Liverpool, England



Song, at just 21 years of age, has already played in two World Cup's.

At just 17, he appeared in the '94 World Cup, breaking the record of being the youngest player to be sent off in a World Cup match. After that he moved to France before going to Italy, to play with Salernitana.

Song was brought to Liverpool from Salernitana by manager Gerard Houllier to ease the Merseyside clubs' defensive woes.

Song has cemented his place in the Liverpool side this season, adding some much needed stability and organisation in defence.

JURGEN KLINSMANN (Germany)



Klinsmann, 34, is going to be one of the star attractions of the FIFA side.

One of the greatest strikers of all time, Klinsmann has had a distinguished career both at club and international level.

He won a World Cup and European Championship with Germany, for whom he played 108 times.

Played for VfB Stuttgart, Internazionale, Monaco, Tottenham Hotspur, Sampdoria and Bayern Munich with much success at club level.

Now retired from football and living in the United States, this game is expected to be one of the last games that Klinsmann plays.

CHRISTIAN VIERI (Italy)

Lazio, Italy



"Our" Vieri will be the star of the show at Stadium Australia.

Having lived in Sydney until he was 14, Vieri will be the most popular of the FIFA World Stars team.

Vieri, 25, came to fame in Italy with Atalanta and was soon on his way to Juventus.

After a terrific season there, he was sold on to Spanish club Atletico Madrid but soon became homesick and was back in Serie A the next season where he spearheaded Lazio's championship challenge.

Was Italy's best player at the 1998 World Cup before they were knocked out by France.

MURAT YAKIN (Switzerland)

Fenerbahce, Turkey

Yakin, though of Turkish background, is an established international for Switzerland.

Now plays his club football in Turkey with Fenerbahce, whom he joined from Grasshoppers.

Yakin was part of Grasshoppers' terrific run in the 1997 Champions League where they beat both Rangers and Ajax.

At 24, Yakin is still young, but a talented midfielder who has over 20 caps for the Swiss national team.

ILIA TSIMBALAR (Russia)

Spartak Moscow, Russia

Like many players now playing for the Russian national team, Tsimbalar began his international career with Ukraine.

He made three appearances before giving up his Ukrainian citizenship in 1993 and has since won over 30 caps for Russia.

Was a member of their 1996 European Championships squad and scored in the game against Italy.

A hard-working, no-nonsense midfielder, Tsimbalar has attracted interest from clubs in Western Europe.

GEORGE WEAH (Liberia)

AC Milan, Italy

The two-time FIFA Player of the Year, Weah, is one of the bigger names making his way to these shores for this game.

The Liberian striker was voted as African Player of the Century earlier this year, beating off the likes of Roger Milla and Abedi Pele to take the award.

Weah, 32, is now coming to the end of a brilliant career in the top leagues of Europe. Weah is still one of the world's best players.

First made a name for himself in France with Monaco and then Paris St Germain before joining AC Milan, whom he helped win the Scudetto this season.



TARIBO WEST (Nigeria)

Internazionale, Italy

One of the world's most instantly-recognisable players, Nigerian international, West, has in recent times been a transfer target for English clubs.

The strong and gifted defender, who always wears beads of his team's colours in his hair, was part of the underachieving Nigerian squad at the '98 World Cup.

He joined Inter from French club Auxerre and has become a popular figure with the Milanese club.

Earlier last season, his relationship with the club soured when he threw his shirt at then-manager Mircea Lucescu after being substituted.



LEONARDO (Brazil)

AC Milan, Italy

Brazilian Leonardo, 29, played in the 1994 World Cup but was sent off in the game against the USA when he was caught elbowing opponent Claudio Reyna.

After that he moved to France from the J-League before he was signed by Italian super-club, AC Milan.

Leonardo has been an integral part in the Milan giants becoming Italian Champions this season.

The skilful midfielder went to France '98 and had a terrific tournament for the runners-up.



WYNTON RUFER (New Zealand)

Auckland Kings, New Zealand

The veteran New Zealand striker was recently voted Oceania's Player of the Century by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics.

This game will give Aussies a chance to see Rufer before next season's Ericsson Cup, when he will be player-coach of the new team from New Zealand, Auckland Kings.

Played with success in Germany, most notably with Werder Bremen, before giving the J-League a shot and then returning to Germany.

DWIGHT YORKE (Trinidad and Tobago)

Manchester United, England



Though still not confirmed as coming, Manchester United's Yorke will face his good mate Mark Bosnich if he does play.

United smashed their transfer record to bring Yorke to Old Trafford from Aston Villa at the start of last season.

He proved all the critics wrong, forming a deadly partnership with Andy Cole, scoring nearly 30 goals on the way to helping United record a historic treble.

Dwight Yorke has had his best season yet in the English Premier League and is one of the best strikers going around at the moment.

OKAN BURUK (Turkey)

Galatasaray, Turkey

At 25, Okan is a highly-skilled international midfielder who plays his club football with Turkish giants Galatasaray, where he has Australian Ufuk Talay as a teammate.

Was a regular for Galatasaray before breaking his leg back in 1993 and found it difficult to get his place back in the side but has re-established himself this season. He was a key member of the side that unluckily missed out on a berth in the Champions League quarter-finals.

MARCO BRANCA (Italy)

Middlesbrough, England



The former Inter and Udinese striker made just one appearance for English Premier League side Middlesbrough last season, and that was as a substitute.

Joined 'Boro the year before and helped them to promotion from the First Division and to the final of the League Cup where they lost to Chelsea.

At the start of the year, Middlesbrough claimed that he was forced to retire from the game through injury, but Branca said he knew nothing of it.

HIDETOSHI NAKATA (Japan)

Perugia, Italy



Hidetoshi Nakata is Japan's most popular player. His own web site received more than one-and-a-half million hits after he moved to Serie A club Perugia.

He has played for his country at under 15, 17, 19, 20 levels as well as being a member of the Japanese squad for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Impressed at France '98 and Italian side, Perugia snapped him up from Bellmare Hiratsuka.

Scored two goals on his debut against Juventus and has attracted interest from many bigger European clubs.

ROY HODGSON (England)

(Coach)

It is ironic that Hodgson is coaching the FIFA World Stars side in this clash as he was reportedly rumoured to be the man that Soccer Australia wanted as our next Socceroo coach after the departure of El Tel.

Hodgson coached Inter in the last few rounds of last season as they struggled in the league.



RICHARD VANSAM (Tahiti)

(Coach)

Coached Tahiti in the qualifiers for the 1998 World Cup in France, falling to Australia in the qualifying group. This will be the biggest game in Vansam's career.

FIFA World Stars Clash

SOCCERS BIG NIGHT NOT THAT BIG FOR SOME

From all reports, Saturday nights clash at Stadium Australia between the Socceroos and the FIFA World Stars will attract a record crowd for a game of soccer in Australia.

90,000 plus tickets have been sold for the clash making it the largest crowd for any soccer game in Australia.

The game is being held to celebrate the opening of Stadium Australia.

The previous best crowd for soccer in Australia had been the 85,000 who watched Australia play Iran at the MCG in late November, 1997.

The game gives the Australian players a chance to show of their skills in front of their home fans, who only get the chance to see their team play in the flesh once or twice a year.

The only disappointing aspect of this event, is the number of big named players who have pulled out of the World Stars squad.

This has been deceptive to some fans who have brought their tickets, expecting to see the likes of world cup winner Zidane as well as Italian star, Alessandro Del Piero.

Despite this, the night will be one to remember and will be Australian soccer's biggest nights yet.

The fact that soccer, the biggest attended sport at the Olympics, has been chosen to open the new Olympic Stadium, shows something for the popularity of soccer worldwide.

The only problem is Channel Seven, who own the exclusive rights to all Socceroo matches, will not screen the game live to air.

The reason why the station brought the rights is so that they can show all of Australia's International matches and even though this is not an International but a friendly, it is still our Socceroos who are taking the field.

Speaking on the behalf of all soccer supporters in Australia, this is not good enough.

What must soccer do to get the right type of exposure in the media.

For all those who haven't been able to get a ticket to the game, the match will be shown live on Pay Television.

And don't forget, 'Soccer Weekly' will be live at the game to give you the news and views before, during and after the game as well as photos of Australian soccer's biggest night.

Full details of the clash in next weeks edition.

GO THE SOCCEROOS

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY SOCCER CAMPS

The Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps have opened their enrolment lists to all young students wishing to attend their soccer clinics during next month's school holidays.

These Soccer Camps have been specifically designed and programmed for all young soccer players to learn the finer points of the game.

The Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps are Australia's largest and longest established camps and during July will be staged at 11 specially selected centres, geographically situated to cover Sydney's vast boundaries.

The July school holiday camps will be staged from Monday, July 5 and will run until Friday, July 9 starting each day at 9am sharp and finishing at 1pm.

Mr Richard Alagich, Head Technical Director of the 'Soccer Camps' said that, "This will be our 19th consecutive year that we are staging these special soccer camps for young students of soccer."

"It's an Australian record. A record that we at 'Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps' are extremely proud of."

"Over all these years, a lot of hard work has gone into planning and organising these camps so that today we are able to give young students of soccer the very best."



Richard Alagich

"We have always taken great care in designing our programmes for all our soccer camps."

"Children are taught the finer points of soccer at our camps as well as learning all the laws of the game," stated Mr Alagich. Enrolments open this week with special attractive discounts being offered to family, club or group bookings.

Each camp centre will be restricted to a limited number of students enrolling so enrol early and be sure that you don't miss out.

Call us to register your young 'Maradona', 'David Beckham', 'Marco Van Basten' or 'Christian Vieri' for the Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps in July.

The Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps are not organised only for boys, as girls are also most welcomed to attend the camp.

Don't delay, ring for camp bookings on (02)-9971-6131 or send us a fax on, (02)-9971-0004.

Enrolments to these fabulous soccer camps close Wednesday, June 30, so don't wait until the last minute to send in your enrolment.

High profiled guest instructors appearing at these camps will include star NSL players from Northern Spirit and Wollongong City.

All eleven Camp sites include the use of indoor facilities just in case of wet weather.

Each enrolled student who attends these excellent clinics will receive a free camp cap as well as a camp T-shirt.

Five days with 20 hours of expert extensive coaching awaits each child attending the July Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps. Goalkeeping coaching is only available at Blacktown, Caringbah and French Forest Camps.

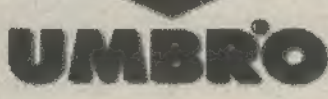
5 DAYS

9.00am to
1.00pm

20

hours of
coaching

PACIFIC - UMBRO SOCCER CAMPS
The popular Australian Soccer Camp - Established 1978



JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday to Friday From 9.00am to 1.00pm July 5 - July 9 1999

Richard Alagich, Technical Director

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with SPECIAL DISCOUNTS for your CLUB or FAMILY

Get a group together and take advantage of these fantastic discounts:

GROUP BOOKING

1 player \$135
5-9 players \$125 (ea)
10-19 players \$115 (ea)
20 or more players \$105 (ea)

[Note: Club group bookings may be made by telephone, facsimile or mail. The discount applied depends on the final number of Application Forms received from the group.]

FAMILY BOOKING

1 child \$135
2 children \$125 (ea)
3 or more children \$115 (ea)

All campers MUST
bring their own soccer
ball to the camp.



MR LES MURRAY
Manager, SBS Sport says,
"I thoroughly recommend
the Pacific-Umbro Soccer
Camps to you ..."



Fred Wall Leading Australian
Goalkeeper Coach.



- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| BLACKTOWN | — Evans High School
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| CARINGBAH | — Endeavour High School
The Boulevard, Caringbah |
| CASTLE HILL | — Castle Hill High School
Castle Street, Castle Hill |
| EASTWOOD | — Epping Boys High School
Vinniera Road, Eastwood |
| EMU PLAINS | — Nepean High School
Great Western Hwy, Emu Plains |
| FRENCH FOREST | — The Forest High School
Frenchs Forest Road,
Frenchs Forest |
| HUNTERS HILL | — Hunters Hill High School
Pebay Street, Hunters Hill |
| ILLAWONG | — Menai High School
Gerald Road, Illawong |
| MONA VALE | — Pittwater High School
Mona Street, Mona Vale |
| ROCKDALE | — St George Soccer Stadium
Beattie Street, Rockdale |
| ST. IVES | — St. Ives High School
Yarraburg Road, St. Ives |

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(check Group & Family discounts)

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FREE Camp T-shirt
Camp cap
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• Technical Director and Coach of
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• Author of FIFA endorsed world wide
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FIFA ENDORSED WORLD WIDE PUBLICATION

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Now part of the curriculum at the Institute of Sport and Management ... Tokyo, Japan.

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Australian Features

Bundaberg taking soccer to a new level

Australia's lack of professionalism in our soccer teams has cost us dearly in the past. Missing out on qualification for the last six World Cup's has been a bitter pill to swallow for all Australian's.

The main problem is the lack of professional clubs in the game, and despite the advances of Northern Spirit and Perth Glory to raise the standard of soccer to a higher level, more must be done in both junior and state leagues throughout Australia.

Bundaberg Waves is a regional club in Queensland attempting to raise the standard of soccer in their state as well as in the XXXX League.

The club has appointed a full time coach as well as a number of well-known players to the club including Brisbane Strikers star, Wayne Knipe.

Bundaberg coach, Tony Walmsley has found the task as a full-time coach difficult, but so far the team has improved its performances from last season through the use of a more rigorous training routine.

"The workload that we do at the club is high. I thought that training three to four times a week would give us an edge over the course of the season.

"It did for a while but a number of players have found jobs which has meant that the number of training sessions has decreased since the start of the season.

"The setup of the Bundaberg Waves is another problem for the coach. Bundaberg does not have a youth team in the XXXX League meaning that there are less players to choose from.

"We have had our resources strained two or three times already this year and since we can't draw on juniors from this league, we have to sign up extra players at the start of the season, but my problem is to keep all the players happy."

One player which is happy at Bundaberg is former Celtic and Dundee United player, Gary McGinnis.

McGinnis started off at Celtic in 1978 when he was 14, and after three years at the club, he moved to Dundee United where he won the Scottish Premier League during his nine years at the club.

He now finds himself playing in Bundaberg as sweeper where he is more than happy with his new position.

"I enjoy sweeper. I think it's a great opportunity for me to nurture the young players that we have got and now I have the



Bundaberg's Daniel Cummins

chance to put something back into the sport."

Walmsley speaks highly of McGinnis and his role as sweeper and in particular, his leadership and professional approach on the field.

"His experience is fantastic, his ability to pull people into position in defence is outstanding. He is a great talker which makes his own job at sweeper easier.

"Apart from a professional outlook, the club also enjoys good media exposure in the local media, which can't be said for the majority of clubs in other leagues throughout Australia including the Ericsson Cup.

"We probably get on the back page of the local newspaper twice a week, as well as the local television station which enables us to attract the sponsors we need," said Walmsley.

So with the improvement of attitude by state teams in Queensland, is there a chance that in the near future we may see two Queensland teams in the NSL.

"There is scope for a second NSL team. One team from Queensland is not enough for a state this big," said Walmsley.

"The Strikers haven't hit the right buttons yet with gates of only three to four thousand. They stimulated everyone when they got 44,000 to the Grand Final but I don't know why those people don't go back."

The key to professionalism in Australia is simple in the eyes of McGinnis.

"A World Cup in Australia would help the game but it's the grassroots level that holds the key.

"The initiative shown by the Waves is a big step towards professionalism in Australian soccer.

Whilst Bundaberg is moving in the right direction, other teams must also follow the lead set and not just in Queensland, but in every other state in Australia.



Bundaberg star and musician, Wayne Knipe

BUNDABERG

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Michael Bainbridge | 10 Daniel Cummins |
| 2 Gary McGinnis | 11 Wayne Knipe |
| 3 Lucas Read | 12 Jacob Noe |
| 4 Chris Wilson | 14 Peter Bock |
| 5 Adam Conkie | 15 Mark Hagger |
| 6 Tony Roebuck (c) | 16 Paul Fagan |
| 7 Jason Chapman | 17 Brett Kitching |
| 8 Craig Hawkins | 18 Greg Thomas |
| 9 Nick Maas | 20 Corey Baldock |

NORWAY TAKE OUT UNI WORLD CUP

The champions for the Newcastle University World Cup have been decided with Norway declared the inaugural champions.

In perfect conditions at University No.1 Oval, Norway overcame a spirited Islander team 3-2 in what has been described as the "game of the tournament."

In the play-off for third, Sweden were too strong for Australia finishing 8-0 winners.

The last game of the competition had all the attributes befitting a World Cup final. The game was fast, skilful, attacking end-to-end football.

Norway opened the scoring early in the game when a well timed cross by Magnus Svendsen found an unmarked Hakon Groenn who easily slotted the ball home.

The Islanders hit back through Jimmy Noake who made the most of a goal mouth scramble to even the scoreline.

Norway made it 2-1 just before half time when Hakon Groenn scored his second goal of the game.

The second half saw all out attack with both sides coming close on numerous occasions. Northern First Division and South Cardiff player Magnus Svendsen grabbed a third Norwegian goal late in the game to seal the victory.

However, a last minute goal by Islander Sunyadech Srimanee made for an interesting and frantic conclusion to the game.

Executive at the University of Newcastle Sports Union hailed the competition a roaring success with a large crowd to watch the final.

The tournament has brought the ethnic groups and overseas students on campus together in a celebration of cultural diversity and goodwill. The competition can only get bigger and better next year.

Round 1

Norway	.....1	Islanders	.....1
Botswana	.....4	Middle Orient	.....1
Australia	.....3	Sweden	.....3
Asia	.....5	USA	.....2

Round 2

Norway	.....3	Botswana	.....2
Islanders	.....1	Middle Orient	.....1
Australia	.....3	Asia	.....0
Sweden	.....4	USA	.....2

Round 3

Norway	.....6	Middle Orient	.....0
Islanders	.....1	Botswana	.....0
USA	.....2	Australia	.....1
Sweden	.....4	Asia	.....0



Norwegian captain Magnus Svendsen with his winners medal.

Norwegian Captain, Magnus Svendsen said after the final, "There are many Norwegians studying at Newcastle University and this competition has enabled us to meet fellow countrymen for the first time in Newcastle.

"We had so many supporters for the final it was unbelievable. Many thanks must go to the organisers who ran a brilliant World Cup. It helped us remember Norway and represent our country even though we are so far away from home."

Islander Captain, Rollins Suluja was happy with how the players made a tight bond with each other.

"We had players from all different Indian and Pacific Islands playing for us.

"They represented countries like Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Mauritius, and the Seychelles. We all love playing football and this tournament gave us a chance to play our greatest passion as a team."

Michael Kmet, organiser of the Newcastle University World Cup said that the tournament was a complete success considering it was only the first year of the tournament.

"The whole spirit in which the tournament was held demonstrates the enormous healing powers of the world's only true international language, football. At a time of racial unrest in the world, this is our small bit for racial harmony.

"The Islanders celebrated their silver medal as if they'd won a final. We expect this to become an annual event. We are also hoping that the sports unions and clubs from other universities adopt this concept where one day we could have a champion of champions tournament."

Sports Union Program Manager Chris Tola said, "The event was a great indicator of the support and interest of not only soccer but the Sports Union and our international student members."



The Islanders finished second in the tournament after losing 3-2 in the final to Norway.

Australian Features



Welcome, we are the Four Diegos. This week we have an exclusive for all Soccer Weekly readers.

It's been a crazy year in the Ericsson Cup and now we are glad to announce that the cream has risen to the top as we announce the nominations for the Four Diegos (Unofficial) Ericsson Cup awards. And now we welcome to the stage the four Diegos as they take us through the nominees.



Nominations for the "Best Performance in a Post-Match Press Conference" Award of the Season.

1. Adelaide City coach, Zoran Matic for roundly publicly bagging his players after his team earned a disappointing draw against South Melbourne in Round 25.

On Adelaide City's goal ace, Damien Mori, Matic said, "He doesn't do enough, he just makes a sprint every 5 minutes."

On his team, Matic said, "We have never improved a result in my time here. When the other team loses a player, we immediately get more bludgers."

And for this gem after his team's woeful effort against the Knights in Round 20.

"We completely died. We stuffed it up completely. This team is not fit mentally."

In the second half there was so much space between our back line and the attack, you could have sold it as a vacant block. But I will fix it."

And again, in the aftermath of his team's derby loss against the Sharks in Round 27, the 'Old Fox' unleashed a tirade of abuse on his players that from all reports, hasn't stopped.

A disgusted Matic vomited. "It was embarrassing. There were only three players that did their job. We never showed any emotion."

Then again on the following Wednesday, Matic's regurgitation continued.

"I couldn't believe they didn't want to fight. I will have to hit some heads against the wall. Adelaide City won't tolerate people who won't fight. Anyone who steps out of line won't be here next season."

Thursday... Matic reportedly kicked the dog Friday... reportedly abused the paperboy

Saturday... Banging on the doors of Stereo 97.4FM to have a go at the Diegos.

2. Brisbane Striker's coach, John Kosmina, as he slammed his team's change-room door in the face of Melbourne's waiting media, after his team's last minute loss to Melbourne Knights in Round 5, said.

"Write what you F---ing want!" and again. "If they are a million dollar team then my guys are a \$1.5 million dollar team," after his team lost to Ericsson Cup

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

glamour team, Sydney Olympic in Round 2.

And again, "The only people who will beat us this year is ourselves" after his team's win against Carlton in Round 4.

It has been reported that as a consequence, Kossie labeled Brisbane's 'Bye' in Round 9 as a real danger game.

3. "I can fully understand how Angie must feel because if it was me, I'd be spewing"

Marconi coach, Frank Farina extending a sympathetic thought to South Melbourne coach, Angie Postecoglou, after his team defeated South 5 - 3 in a game marred by dubious refereeing decisions in Round 4.

4. Northern Spirit's coach, Graham Arnold, who went off at the referee for not giving a penalty to his team after the Round 14 encounter against Newcastle.

He said: "I've seen some unbelievable decisions this year. My boy said the ref told him 'I haven't trained for four weeks, I'm buggered'

Nomination for the "Most Innovative Coaching Strategy" of the Season.

Carlton Coach Eddie Krncevic who, when asked how he was going to combat John Markovski's goal-scoring threat against his team in Round 13, replied, "Take him out night clubbing the night before the game."

Nomination for the "Best Tactical Ploy and Motivational Pep Talk" Award of the Season.

The sole domain of the former Soccerroo legend and current Northern Spirit coach, Graham Arnold, who in the aftermath of his team's magnificent 1-0 win over top of the table South Melbourne in Round 26 said,

"We've been working on our impatience at training."

I think we know what you mean Arnie??? On motivating his team to a great victory, he said.

"All I asked for tonight was that everyone out there wanted to wear the shirt."

It's good to see that Arnie has been able to assemble a team that is willing to play with a shirt on.

Hairy chests and backs don't attract the family market that the Spirit is targeting.

Nominations for the "Best Ericsson Cup Christmas Cheer" Award of the Season.

1. "North Sydney Oval is a great place to go at Christmas, I just hope the Spirit get into the spirit and give away some presents!"

Gippy Falcon's coach, Stuart Munro

prior to his team's game against Northern Spirit in Round 12. Unfortunately for Stuart, Northern Spirit were nothing but scrooges on the day with Gippy leaving empty handed after losing 1-0.

2. "You don't celebrate Christmas in November"

Adelaide City Zebra's coach, Zoran 'Scrooge' Matic, prior to his team's 1-0 win over Canberra in Round 9.

Nomination for the "I'm Sure We Can Win. I Think!" Award of the Season.

"It will be good to meet my old mate David Mitchell. Sydney United are a great side playing a bit below their capability, they are certainly beatable, even by us!"

The big headed, super confident caretaker coach of the Canberra Cosmos, Tony Brennan, prior to his team's Round 12 game against Sydney United.

Surprise, surprise, the Cosmos lost 2-0.

Nominations for the "Jimmy & Tammy Baker — PRAISE THE LORD — IT'S A MIRACLE" Award Of The Season.

1. Marconi coach, Frank "I've found God" Farina who after his team's unconvincing 2-1 win in Round 26 against Carlton, proclaimed to his brethren "Yes Jesus, Holy Mary, there is a God, We are still alive".

Frank then proceeded to speak in tongues to his charges in his post-match address and attempted to heal the sick and feed the poor as he left Olympic Park on the night.

2. And another religious experience.

A disappointed 'Visa Vid' after the game versus the Sharks in Round 10 said, "It's the first time I can say that I'm really disappointed with a result and I'm tempted to ask why God doesn't like us."

Nomination for the 'It was El Nino's Fault' Award of the Season.

Sydney Olympic coach, Branco Culina who said after his loss against Marconi in Round 9, "We weren't beaten by a better side. We were beaten by other elements."

Nomination for the "I've Got a Love / Hate Relationship with My Players" Award of the Season.

"My team played sensational football tonight. Unbelievable football. I'm proud of my team and I'm proud of everything they do."

Canberra Cosmos "easily pleased" coach, Rale Rasic, after his team lost to fellow perennial cellar dweller,



Frank Farina... attempted to heal the sick and feed the poor outside Olympic Park.

Newcastle Breakers in Round 2. The Cosmos losing sequence spanned 18 games in a row.

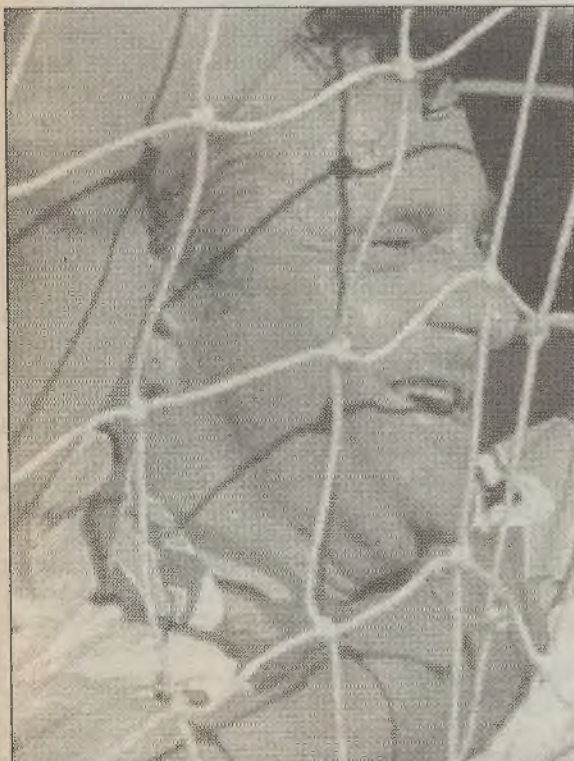
"What really surprises me is that the club has never realised what is happening."

There were too many players who were not performing. They are destroying the club with their unprofessional and irresponsible attitude."

Canberra Cosmos coach, Rale Rasic on his players after his sacking.

Nomination for the "Biggest Cost Cutting" Rumour of 1998 / 1999.

Biggest Rumour of 1999 was that Perth Glory former big boned, heavy set, weighty, big, big, big... if you know what I mean... big man, John Markovski lost so much weight under Glory's East German, coach.



Graham Arnold... convinced his chargers that playing in shirts is better for the image of the club.

The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4FM. Saturday 10am-12midday.

E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Central Coast 0 drew Sutherland Sharks 0, Blacktown City 3 (J Bennett 24/68m D Brown 45m) bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (B Dragas 36m) Bankstown City 3 (M Lozevski 12m S Van Bentum 22m N Codman 48m) bt Central Coast 0, Fairfield Bulls 5 (M Hoenselaars 36m D Iocca 46m M Borg 47m M Vrankovic 53m R Pirrecca 73m) bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Macarthur Rams 1 (J Aschner 3m) bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Canterbury Marrickville 3 (N Bosevski 25/73m G Kategiannis 80m) bt Eastern Suburbs 1 (N Imaya 45m), Leichhardt Tigers 3 (S Karavatakis 14/43m E Hristodoulou 40m) bt Ryde City 1 (A Peatey 32m).

UNDER 21: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 drew Blacktown City 1, Bankstown City 1 bt Central Coast 0, Fairfield Bulls 2 drew Sutherland Sharks 2, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Canterbury Marrickville 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Ryde City 7 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0.

UNDER 18: Blacktown City 2 bt Bonnyrigg WE 1, Bankstown City 3 bt Central Coast 2, Fairfield Bulls 2 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Macarthur Rams 2 bt Parramatta Eagles 1, Eastern Suburbs 4 bt Canterbury Marrickville 2, Ryde City 1 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0.

DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE: Penrith Panthers 2(D Lownds 41m, B Casserly 82m) bt Illawarra Lions 0, Bathurst '75 2(S Mutton 48/79m Pen) bt Manly Warringah 1 (M Bastian 54m), Dulwich Hill 0 drew Penrith Panthers 0, Rockdale City Suns 3 (S Najdoski 42m B Petrovski 44m G Trposki 82m) bt St George 0, Stanmore Hawks 2 (P Kypros 23/29m) bt Auburn United 1 (A Kanaan 15m), Hurstville City 4 (A Kalamvokis 30/47m M Kaladis 75m T Pontidas 82m) bt Illawarra Lions 0.

UNDER 21: Moorebank Sports 1 drew AC United 1, Penrith Panthers 5 bt Illawarra Lions 0, Manly Warringah 2 bt Bathurst '75 1, Penrith Panthers 1 bt Dulwich Hill 0, Rockdale City Suns 2 bt St George 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Auburn United 1, Hurstville City 2 drew Illawarra Lions 2.

UNDER 18: Moorebank Sports 1 bt AC United 0, Bathurst '75 0 drew Manly 0, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Dulwich Hill 0, Rockdale City Suns 1 drew St George 1, Auburn United 2 drew Stanmore Hawks 2, Hurstville City 6 bt Illawarra Lions 3.

DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE: Fraser Park 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, University of NSW 2 drew Sydney University 2, Hajduk Wanderers 1 bt Hurstville ZSC 0, Sydney District 1 (M Quintao 42m) drew Greystanes 1(A Cauchi 57m), University of NSW 2 (D Nejedly 4m A Junic 53m) drew Hills United 2 (R Moscapo 80m S Butcher 84m), Arncliffe Scots 1 (R Todrovski 90m) drew Sydney University 1 (D Bromhead 85m), Mt Pritchard 2 (F Cofentino 19m M Canova 75m) bt Mt Druitt Town 1(J Van Waard 14m), Fraser Park 5 (S Strang 16m M Zec 57m P Andropoulos 80/84m A Zizic 85m) bt Belmore Hercules 0.

UNDER 21: Hajduk Wanderers 3 bt Fraser Park 0, University of NSW 3 bt Sydney University 1, Hurstville ZSC 1 drew Hajduk Wanderers 1, Greystanes 3 bt Sydney District 0, Hills United 4 bt University of NSW 0, Sydney University 4 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Mt Druitt Town 3 bt Mt Pritchard 2, Fraser Park 3 bt Belmore Hercules 1.

UNDER 18: Hajduk Wanderers 5 bt Fraser Park 0, University of NSW 2 bt Sydney University 0, Hajduk Wanderers 3 bt Hurstville ZSC 1, Sydney District 1 bt Greystanes 0, Hills United 6 bt University of NSW 0, Arncliffe Scots 1 bt Sydney University 0, Mt Druitt Town 2 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Belmore Hercules 2 bt Fraser Park 0.

DIVISION THREE

FIRST GRADE: Liverpool City 2 bt Maroubra United 1, Colo Colo 4 bt Gladesville United 1, Prospect United 1 drew Camden Tigers 1, White City 2 bt Parramatta City 1, The Wanderers 3 bt Trasandinos 2, Hakoah 2 drew Western Sydney Lions 2.

SECOND GRADE: Liverpool City 4 bt Maroubra United 2, Colo Colo 1 bt Gladesville United 0, Camden Tigers 2 bt Prospect United 1, White City 4 bt Parramatta City 2, Trasandinos 3 bt The Wanderers 2, Hakoah 1 bt Western Sydney Lions 0.

DIVISION FOUR

FIRST GRADE: Hawkesbury City 2 bt CSI Schofields 1, Prairiewood United 1 bt Balmain 0, United Eagles 7 bt CSI Schofields 0, Hawkesbury City 1 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 0, Marrickville 1 drew Holy Cross Ryde 1, Sydney Crescent Star 0 drew Grannville Greenisland 0, Springwood 2 drew Nepean District 2, White Valley 0 drew Auburn Star 0.

SECOND GRADE: Balmain 1 drew Prairiewood United 1, United Eagles 3 bt CSI Schofields 2, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Eastern Creek Pioneers 1, Holy Cross Ryde 6 bt Marrickville 1, Grannville Greenisland 7 bt Sydney Crescent Star 2, Springwood 1 drew Nepean District 1, White Valley 3 bt Auburn Star 2.

DIVISION FIVE

FIRST GRADE: Kosciusko 5 bt Macquarie Sports 0, Bossy 1 drew UTS 1, Sporting SCC 0 drew Kosciusko 0, Kellyville

Kolts 5 bt Sydney United Kings 0, Earlwood Hermes 2 bt Lithgow Workmen 1, AVA United 2 bt Sydney TUSC 1, Macquarie Sports 3 bt Homenetmen 2.

SECOND GRADE: Kosciusko 3 bt Macquarie Sports 1, Bossy 2 bt UTS 0, Sporting SCC 1 drew Kosciusko 1, Kellyville Kolts 8 bt Sydney United Kings 2, Lithgow Workmen 2 bt Earlwood Hermes 0, Sydney TUSC 6 bt AVA United 2, Macquarie Sports 3 bt Homenetmen 0.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Gladesville Ravens 2 drew NNSW ITC/Academy 2, Nepean Panthers 6 bt Shoalhaven Association 2, NSW Institute/Academy 4 bt Central Coast 0, UWS Macarthur Rams 2 bt Sydney United 0.

UNDER 21: Marconi Fairfield 1 drew Sutherland Sharks 1, NNSW ITC/Academy 2 bt Gladesville Ravens 0, Nepean Panthers 4 bt Shoalhaven Association 0, NSW Institute/Academy 5 bt Central Coast 2, Sydney United 1 bt UWS Macarthur Rams 0.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Wollongong Wolves 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Manly Warringah 12 bt Bankstown United 1, St George Association 0 drew Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 0, Bathurst City 3 bt Roselands 0.

UNDER 19: Wollongong Wolves 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Manly Warringah 14 bt Bankstown United 0, St George Association 1 drew Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 1, Bathurst City 1 bt Roselands 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Marconi Fairfield 1, Gladesville Hornsby 6 bt Manly Warringah 1, Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Wollongong Wolves 0, Eastern Suburbs 1 bt Sydney United 0, Marconi Fairfield 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Southern Districts 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Newcastle Breakers 4 bt Manly Warringah 0, Blacktown City 6 bt Central Coast 0, Sydney Olympic 1 bt Southern Branch 0, Central Coast 1 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Blacktown City 7 bt Southern Districts 0.

UNDER 14: Marconi Fairfield 2 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Manly Warringah 0, Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Wollongong Wolves 1 drew Gladesville Hornsby 1, Sydney United 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Macarthur Rams 3 bt Marconi Fairfield 0, Southern Districts 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Newcastle Breakers 1 bt Manly Warringah 0, Blacktown City 4 bt Central Coast 0, Sydney Olympic 5 bt Southern Branch 1, Central Coast 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Southern Districts 0 drew Blacktown City 0.

UNDER 15: Marconi Fairfield 4 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Gladesville Hornsby 7 bt Manly Warringah 0, Parramatta Eagles 0 drew Leichhardt Tigers 0, Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Wollongong Wolves 0, Sydney United 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Marconi Fairfield 5 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Sutherland Sharks 2 drew Southern Districts 2, Newcastle Breakers 3 bt Manly Warringah 0, Blacktown City 4 bt Central Coast 1, Sydney Olympic 2 bt Southern Branch 1, Eastern Suburbs 1 bt Central Coast 0, Blacktown City 3 bt Southern Districts 1.

UNDER 16: Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Marconi Fairfield 1, Gladesville Hornsby 2 drew Manly Warringah 2, Leichhardt Tigers 1 bt Parramatta eagles 0, Wollongong Wolves 1 bt Gladesville Hornsby 0, Sydney United 6 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Marconi Fairfield 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Sutherland Sharks 4 bt Southern Districts 2, Newcastle breakers 4 bt Manly Warringah 0, Blacktown City 3 bt Central Coast 0, Sydney Olympic 5 bt Southern Branch 0, Central Coast 1 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Blacktown City 3 bt Southern Districts 1.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Bankstown Assoc 5 bt Canterbury M'ville 1, Illawarra Lions 3 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Ryde City 0, AC United 4 bt Rockdale City 1, Blacktown Assoc 3 bt Hills United 0, Bonnyrigg WE 3 bt Fairfield Bulls 1, St George 4 bt Canterbury Assoc 0, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Canterbury Association 1.

UNDER 14: Bankstown Assoc 3 bt Canterbury M'ville 1, Illawarra Lions 1 bt Stanmore Hawks 0, Ryde City 3 bt Penrith Panthers 0, AC United 0 drew Rockdale City 0, Blacktown Assoc 2 drew Hills United 2, Bonnyrigg WE 1 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Canterbury Assoc 1 bt St George 0, Canterbury Association 2 bt Penrith Panthers 0.

UNDER 15: Bankstown Assoc 3 bt Canterbury M'ville 1, Stanmore Hawks 1 drew Illawarra Lions 1, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Ryde City 0, AC United 3 bt Rockdale City 1, Blacktown Assoc 2 bt Hills United 0, Bonnyrigg WE 5 bt Fairfield Bulls 2, St George 2 bt Canterbury Association 1, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Canterbury Association 0.

UNDER 16: Bankstown Assoc 5 bt Canterbury M'ville 2, Stanmore Hawks 1 bt Illawarra Lions 0, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Ryde City 1, AC United 1 bt Rockdale City 0, Blacktown Assoc 4 bt Hills United 0, Fairfield Bulls 2 bt Bonnyrigg WE 0, St George 4 bt Canterbury Assoc 0, Penrith Panthers 4 bt Canterbury Association 1.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE



Sunday 13th June

Central Coast v Parramatta Eagles

Plum Park, 3:00pm

(rd 10 re-arranged match)

Eastern Suburbs v Ryde City

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

(rd 16 re-arranged match)

Monday 14th June

Macarthur Rams v Fairfield Bulls

Lynwood Park, 3:00pm

(rd 18 re-arranged match)

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BLACKTOWN EXTENDS LEAD AT TOP

Super League started early with a re-arranged fixture between two of the bottom clubs.

The round 13 clash between Central Coast and the Sutherland Sharks was a dull affair played on a clear but cold night at Plum Park, and there was nothing to warm the supporters up as the game ended in a 0-0 draw.

In round 19 action, it was the battle between first and second as Blacktown City Demons traveled to the Serbian Centre to play Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

Bonnyrigg went into the game a point behind the Demons, and knew that anything less than a win would be a great result for Blacktown.

In a final-type atmosphere the class of Jason Bennett shone through as he scored two expertly taken goals, and set up Damien Brown for the third.

Bonnyrigg had scored through Borislava Dragas to make it 1-1, but Brown's goal right on the stroke of half time and some superb defending kept the inevitable Bonnyrigg pressure out. After soaking up the pressure Bennett notched his second with a cracking right foot half volley.

The win means Blacktown, who welcomed back Steve Berry from Sydney United, has a four point lead with just three games to play, and will take some catching now.

Macarthur had a valuable 1-0 away win at

Parramatta Eagles, with Jimmy Aschner scoring after just three minutes. The loss for the Eagles sees them drop from fourth to eighth, as a number of teams press for that top five spot.

The Leichhardt Tigers put behind them two home defeats to secure a 3-1 win over Ryde City, all the goals coming in the first period. Steve Karavatakis scored after 14 minutes for the Tigers, then Adam Peatey equalised just after the half-hour.

A goal by Eric Hristodoulou five minutes before the break made it 2-1 to Leichhardt, and Karavatakis got his second and his sides third to end the scoring.

Bankstown are in fifth after their 3-0 win over the Central Coast, scoring through Mendo Lozevski, Stewart Van Bentum and Nabil Codmani, but Fairfield are next, with a game in hand over both Leichhardt and Bankstown.

The Bulls had it easy over the Sutherland Sharks, winning 5-0 thanks to Hoenselaars, Iocca, Borg, Vrankovic and Pirrecca.

Canterbury Marrickville seem to have got over their horror spell, and after beating Leichhardt last week, claimed a 3-1 victory over Eastern Suburbs at Henson Park.

Nick Bosevski scored after 25 and 73 minutes, and while Naoki Imaya pulled one back in-between after 45 minutes, George Kategiannis wrapped up the game with his team's third on 80 minutes.

SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

USA EASILY DEFEATS AUSTRALIA

USA 4
Danielle Fotopoulos 1m, Cindy Parlow 68m, Kristine Lilly 71m, Tiffeny Milbrett 85m
AUSTRALIA 0

The Matildas were defeated 4-0 by Olympic gold medallists USA last Friday morning (Aust time) in their opening World Cup warm-up match in Portland, Oregon, on the north west coast of the US.

The game was the Matildas' first hit out since their arrival in America and the first of four games in preparation for the Third FIFA Women's World Cup which commences June 19.

This was a 'closed door' match played at the Nike World Headquarters which has no spectator seating, and open only to the media and Nike personnel, sponsors to the USA team.

Australia has never beaten the current world number one and hot favourites for the World Cup, and the results of these preparation matches are in themselves not of great significance.

National Coach Greg Brown instructed his charges to concentrate on their own game. "We'll be focusing on ourselves and not the result," said Brown on the eve of the match.

"Results aren't what these warm-up games are about. It's a matter of finetuning and getting things right. If we can do what we've worked on and be injury-free, I'll be happy."

Without a need to take any risks, Brown declared Lisa Casagrande, Sharon Black and Dianne Alagich unavailable for selection with

minor injuries.

In warm conditions of 24 degrees, the Matildas got off to a bad start, conceding a goal to Danielle Fotopoulos in the first minute of play, with not one Australian having touched the ball.

A testing cross from the boot of Tiffeny Milbrett failed to be cleared, and Fotopoulos was allowed to thump the loose ball into the roof of the net from close range.

The Australians finally settled to display some encouraging football of their own, and went in at the break only one goal down. After the goal, play for the first half was confined mainly to a midfield tussle.

The Matildas' best scoring opportunity fell to captain Julie Murray on the half-hour but her weak strike was easily gathered by US keeper Saskia Webber.

Murray was on the attack again in the 32nd minute but was fouled by defender Christie Pearce. The American was yellow-carded but could well have been sent off as she was the last defender.

The home side made a total of five half-time changes, bolstering the side with the introduction of stars Julie Foudy, Michelle Akers, Cindy Parlow, Joy Fawcett, plus Kate Sobrero.

It wasn't long before they stamped their authority on the game. A Parlow glancing header flew inches wide in the 52nd minute, and Milbrett's diving header was brilliantly saved by Matildas keeper Tracey Wheeler a minute later.

Then two quick goals to Parlow and Kristine

Lilly midway through the second half all but killed off Australia's chances.

A US corner was flicked on to Lilly whose drive was saved by Wheeler, but the rebound popped up for Parlow to head home in the 68th minute.

Just three minutes later, Shannon MacMillan provided a great cross to Lilly who drove in her left-footed shot.

Milbrett scored the fourth for the US with five minutes remaining, coming in at pace onto a Parlow cross to finish from 12 metres.

Brown carried on his recent experiment of playing the tall and imposing Cheryl Salisbury as a striker with the thought of gaining some height up front.

Salisbury was unlucky not to pull one back with two attempts whistling past the post late in the game.

Outstanding for Australia was goalkeeper Wheeler, Joanne Peters in midfield, and defender Traci Bartlett.

"Losing the early goal didn't

help, but the players composed themselves okay," said Brown.

"Once settled, we had a good spell in the last twenty minutes of the first half. We tired with the heat and travel, and it was hard for the subs to come on and contribute in the conditions.

"The hit-out will do us the world of good, and we'll be more settled come Sunday to have a good"



Joanne Peters played outstanding for Australia in the 4-0 loss to the US.

Australia: Wheeler, Tann-Darby (Swaffer 68), Starr, Bartlett (Ferguson 75), Cooper (Taylor 66), Golebiowski, Forman, Peters, Iannotta (Hepperlin 86), Murray, Salisbury.

USA: Webber, Fair (Akers 46), Pearce (Sobrero 46), Roberts (Fawcett 46), Whalen, Chastain, Lilly, Venturini (Foudy 46), MacMillan, Milbrett, Fotopoulos (Parlow 46).

USA FIGHT OFF CANADA

Canadian star Charmaine Hooper did her best to upset the USA with two brilliant first half goals against the world's number one nation.

The US however responded on each occasion to end up 4-2 victors in the American's last warm-up game before the World Cup.

Hooper gave Canada the lead after just seven minutes, converting a corner kick with a sharp header. Mia Hamm equalised for the US just four minutes later after strong build-up work by Tiffeny Milbrett.

Hamm then turned provider in the 17th minute with a perfect cross for Milbrett to finish for the 2-1 lead.

Hooper struck with her second a minute before the break, latching on to a long ball before cutting inside her defender and striking home. But within the next sixty seconds, USA pulled ahead once more through Kristine Lilly's drive, in off the underside of the bar.

Cindy Parlow's header with seven minutes remaining killed off the Canadian challenge after further chances were created by both sides in the second term.



OFF TO CANADA

The Matildas will now head north to Toronto in Canada for two friendlies against the Canadians.

As stressed by National Coach Greg Brown, the results themselves are not the purpose, but these games against another high quality team under different conditions and playing style will help him sort out his 'form' players and finetune the team dynamics before the real thing commences.

In our last encounter against Canada during the recent Australia Cup, the Matildas made hard work of the game, allowing the visitors

to come back after each time Australia took the lead.

With the pressure on to win the match to make the final, Australia was saved with a brilliant last-minute freekick from defender Anissa Tann-Darby.

Charmaine Hooper remains Canada's biggest influence, scoring both her team's goals yesterday against the USA in the 4-2 loss, following on from her magic double against the US to lead the FIFA World All-Stars to victory in February.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

AUSTRALIA v CANADA

Win Draw Loss 4-1-1

Dec '87 Taiwan 2-0 Win
Dec '87 Taiwan 0-0 Draw
May '95 Vancouver 0-3 Loss
May '95 Vancouver 3-0 Win
Jun '97 Pennsylvania 3-2 Win
Jan '99 Canberra 4-3 Win

CANADA SCARES BRAZIL

In the first match of the Nike Headquarters doubleheader, Brazil fought off a determined Canada to win 4-2.

Favourites Brazil didn't have it all their own way, Susanna scoring an own goal after 11 minutes to give the Canadians the lead.

Two quick goals just before the break to Sissi and Pretinha helped ease Brazil's frustrations, but Canada fought back to equalise at 2-2 through Silvana Burtini early in the second half.

Brazil finally came away with the win with two more goals in the next twelve minutes to the same two players.

QUEENSLAND

Five years ago, the title of 'Super Sub' didn't sit well with Chris Slater. Being young, all he wanted to do was play football, every game, for 90 minutes.

You knew that whenever Slater took the field as a substitute, something exciting was imminent and something was going to happen.

It always did, usually in the form of a goal or two within minutes and sometimes seconds of his appearance.

When Slater played his debut match in the National Soccer League, he scored a goal, which was to be the first of many.

So it was no great surprise that he was the clubs leading goalscorer on three occasions.

PREMIER FOOTBALL

The last time, sharing the honour with Australia's most prolific goalscorer Rod Brown.

Born in Mackay in 1970, Slater spent 12 years with Mackay Rangers from the age of six. Moving to Brisbane in 1988 to study law at the Queensland Institute of Technology, Slater found that law and football didn't mix.

After only one year of pounding away at the law books, he switched to journalism at St Lucia University and at the same time, signing with Brisbane club, Coalstars.

Twelve months later, he changed clubs and moved to the Brisbane Lions under coach Frank Liddell and was part of two premierships and a championship. At the end of the focal season in 1991, he signed with national league team, Brisbane United.

This is where he scored a goal in his debut game going on to be the clubs leading goalscorer. An effort he repeated in the 93/94 season and again in 94/95 with the Brisbane Strikers.

As part of the squad in the Strikers championship year, Slater felt that playing alongside of Farina was one of his career highlights.

"I could have learnt a lot from Frank (Farina), he was world class," Slater said.

"I just wish I'd had the opportunity some five years earlier."

But there were other players who he also regarded as super heroes. The likes of Rod Brown, Danny Wright, Alan Hunter and Frank Pimblett.

"Pimblett was the best ever midfielder I have played with. I gained a lot from him as well as Rod Brown."

In 1997, Slater returned to the Brisbane Premier League and signed with Brisbane City where he still applies his trade and is still scoring goals, last season knocking in 26.

As a lending manager with 'Which Bank', Slater plans to return to college in the year 2000 and do his MBA but before then, he will marry his fiancée, Anthea on November 6 this year.

When asked if he would play national league again, he was doubtful.

"I would never say never but there are many good young players around and I would have to be better than what they've got."

"It would be difficult, but now I would be happy to be a 'Super Sub' with the Strikers," he said with a smile.

Also to his credit, Slater has 17 Queensland caps and was part of the team that held Charlton Athletic to a 2-2 draw in Brisbane back in 1990.

This season at Brisbane City, "Slates" has suffered on the injury front and is currently making his way back to full fitness, hoping to take the field again in a fortnight.

SUPER SUB SLATER



Chris Slater... former Brisbane Striker star now applying his trade for the Brisbane Lions.

Costly slips ups from Brisbane Lions and Ipswich Knights enabled Rochdale Rovers to shoot six points clear at the top of the Queensland Premier League.

Rochdale were held scoreless by a brave Toowoomba in the opening half at Toowoomba's Gold Park before the league leaders ran riot after the break, running in three goals.

Rochdale's goals came from their lethal strike force of Matt Olley, Steve Fitzsimmons and veteran Keiran Cooper.

The visitors' strike power is emphasised by their tally of 39 goals, easily the best in the competition.

Lions, who started the round four points adrift of Rochdale, went down 3-1 to the vastly improved Gold Coast, who are now equal fifth with Taringa.

The Gold Coast, who are rapidly emerging as the league's form side, scored twice through Brisbane Strikers defender Shane Steffanutto while Peter Grierson added the other.

Both Gold Coast and Taringa have a game in hand on the top four sides after Taringa's match against Mt Gravatt was washed out.

Gold Coast's catch up game is against Wynnum who went down 4-0 away to Brisbane City.

City led 1-0 at half time but ran out deserved winners following a double from youngster Rob Kidd and further goals from Shane Haddow and Damien Waugh.

City's victory saw them jump from fifth place to second on 27 points, edging out Ipswich on goal difference.

Ipswich missed a golden opportunity to move into outright second place when Bundaberg game from behind to snatch a 1-all draw.

In a match played in slippery conditions following weekend rain, Ipswich broke a first half deadlock in the 55th minute when midfielder Peter McKendrick drove home a powerful header from a corner.

Bundaberg defender Lucas Read tried desperately to prevent the goal but McKendrick's header was struck with too much force.

The equaliser from Bundaberg came nine minutes from time when striker Wayne Knipe pounced on a rebound from a shot from teammate Jacob Noe.

Knipe had little time in a congested box but somehow found a needle eye opening to tuck his shot inside the far post.

The match was an even affair, but too often, got bogged down in midfield which prevented either side from utilising their speedy forwards.

Ipswich striker John Clark missed becoming a hero for the home side deep in injury time when he missed an easy shot after pouncing on a bad back pass from Bundaberg defender Gary McGinnis.

Although Ipswich had to share the points, coach Frank Pimblett will be looking forward to the return of experienced players Nick Seeley and striker Peter Vogler.

As well, Ipswich lost goalkeeper Nathan Gee with a leg injury after only 20 minutes when he was involved in a tackle from Knipe.

Ipswich had the best chance of the first half to go one up when McKendrick played a long ball to David Quest whose 18 metre thunderbolt was parried by Bundaberg keeper Michael Bainbridge.

In the ensuing follow-up, Clark's low shot was stopped in a diving save following quick reactions from Bainbridge.

Bundaberg also had an opportunity to go to the break in front after the speedy Noe, volleyed a shot from 18 metres only to see substitute keeper Sam Ferguson tip the attempt over the crossbar in a brilliant dive to his right.

Just three minutes after Ipswich hit the lead, Knipe just failed with his first opportunity for the equaliser.

Knipe, who was marked tightly throughout by the Ipswich defence, found some rare space near the touchline before cutting inside where his 25 metre shot dipped and skimmed the crossbar.

ROUND 17

12-06	Rochdale Rov	v	Mt Gravatt	7.00pm
12-06	B'berg Waves	v	Brisbane City	7.00pm
13-06	Wynnum	v	Toowoomba Utd	2.45pm
13-06	Brisbane Lions	v	Ipswich Knights	4.00pm
14-06	Taringa Rovers	v	Gold Coast	2.45pm

QUEENSLAND UPDATE

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rochdale Rov	16	11	0	5	39	24	15	33
Brisbane City	16	8	3	5	31	20	11	27
IPSW Knights	16	8	3	5	26	21	5	27
Brisbane Lions	16	8	2	6	35	29	6	26
Taringa Rovers	15	7	4	4	24	14	10	25
Gold Coast	15	6	7	2	29	22	7	25
B'berg Waves	16	5	4	7	24	25	-1	19
Wynnum	15	4	2	9	22	34	-12	14
Mt Gravatt	15	3	4	8	21	37	-16	13
Toowoomba Utd	16	1	5	10	11	36	-25	8

ROUND 16 SCORES

Gold Coast	.....3	Brisbane Lions	.....1
IPSW Knights	.....1	B'berg Waves	.....1
Brisbane City	.....4	Wynnum	.....0
Toowoomba Utd	.....0	Rochdale Rov	.....3
Mt Gravatt v Taringa Rovers (washed out)			

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Rocklea Utd	14	11	2	1	50	17	33	35
Capalaba	14	9	1	4	29	17	12	28
Souths Utd	13	7	3	3	29	17	12	24
Slacks Creek	13	5	4	4	29	31	-2	19
Inala City	13	5	2	6	23	33	-10	17
Olympic Utd	13	5	0	8	24	27	-3	15
Beenleigh	12	4	2	6	22	28	-6	14
Redlands Utd	13	2	3	8	16	35	-19	9
Acacia Ridge	13	1	3	9	15	32	-17	6

ROUND 15 SCORES

Beenleigh v Redlands Utd	
Souths Utd v Inala City	
Capalaba v Acacia Ridge	
Rocklea Utd - Bye	
Olympic Utd v Slacks Creek	
(all matches washed out)	

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Eastern Subs	13	8	4	1	27	14	13	28
North Star	13	8	2	3	35	19	16	26
Pine Rivers Utd	13	7	2	4	23	14	9	23
Uni of Qld	14	6	2	6	24	26	-2	20
Albany Creek	12	5	4	3	22	20	2	19
Newmarket	12	5	2	5	20	20	0	17
The Gap	13	4	1	8	24	35	-11	13
Grange Thistle	13	2	4	7	15	28	-13	10
Mitchelton	13	1	3	9	13	27	-14	6

ROUNDS 16 SCORES

Newmarket v Albany Creek	
North Star v Pine Rivers Utd	
The Gap v Mitchelton	
Uni of Qld - bye	
Eastern Subs v Grange Thistle	
(all matches washed out)	

eat well  live well

PREMIER LEAGUE

LEADERS BEATEN
BY THE SAINTSST ALBANS 2
PORT MELBOURNE 1

By Ivan Perkov

A mixture of the speculative and spectacular was seen at Churchill Reserve as St Albans bounced back from last week's defeat to beat league leaders Port Melbourne Sharks 2-1.

A full-strength Port side had all the early possession, but failed to turn that dominance into goals. Peter Kakos, the league's leading scorer, and his striking partner Nick Tsaltas were making all the early running.

But it was the Saints who scored the crucial first goal. In 31st minute, Kon Sianidis somehow found himself free 25 metres from goal, he sent in a speculative shot in the direction of Jamie Cooper in the Port goal, who conceded a most comical goal, through his legs.

A goal out of nothing, and soon up against a side with 10 men.

In the 34th minute, Jimmy Latinopoulos sent Damar Movric tumbling. He incurred the wrath of the referee, a definite yellow card — but the card produced was the red one.

With ten men, the Sharks battled as the Saints began attacking frequently, the tides had turned. Slavko Rados, Hrvoje Karl and Sianidis all came close for the Saints.

But it was Port who scored the next goal.

In the 45th minute, when everyone was expecting a long ball, Jean-Paul Knezevic received a short free-kick and from 30 metres, sent the football spinning high into the St Albans goal, a stranded keeper, Marijan Vunderl could only watch.

After the break both sides created numerous chances but both Vid Horvat and Peter Tsolakis watched their sides miss some fine opportunities.

The second 45 provided some end-to-end football which was great to watch, but when was the winner going to pop up, was the question on the fans' minds.

It was in the 88th minute that it did. Slavko Rados received the ball on the right touch-line, then proceeded to swing a deep cross to the back post where an anxious Karl was waiting. His header sent the Saints and their supporters into delirium.

Saints: Vunderl, J.Cuze, I.Rados (Mikulic), Raspudic, Karl, K.Razov, S.Rados, Sianidis, Vojtek, Saric (Dragicevic), Movric (I.Razov).

Sharks: Cooper, Vargas, Knezevic, Fak, Heath, Tsiakos (Tsolakis), Latinopoulos (sent off), Palamaras (Livanopoulos), Efistathiou (Dimas), Tsaltas, Kakos.

Referee: Hakan Anaz

Votes: 3- J.Cuze (StA), 2- Tsaltas (PM), 1- I.Razov (StA)

SUNSHINE 2
WESTVALE 4

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Westvale gained an important three points on Sunday, defeating fellow relegation battlers Sunshine Georgies 4-2.

Westvale, thumped 6-0 last Monday night by Springvale White Eagles, have virtually condemned the Georgies to relegation after this game.

After playing some neat football, the Georgies were rewarded with a goal in the 36th minute from Cesar Hermosilla, who shot under Westvale keeper David Acteson after being played through by Mark Recchia.

The visitors were level just four minutes later Georgies keeper Steve Wardle, one of their best players this season, was totally at fault for the goal when he misjudged a cross-shot from George Karkaletsis.

Three minutes into the second half, Hermosilla turned villain for the Georgies, when he elected to

shoot into the side netting rather than cross for Alfonso Opazo, who was by himself just outside the six yard area.

It was to prove a crucial miss as Sunshine were soon on the back foot and Robert Krajacic and John Kanesoulis both cleared shots off the line in quick succession from Karkaletsis and Sash Markovski respectively.

Westvale's second arrived in the 57th minute when Cameron Brown fired home from just inside the area.

Former Sunshine top scorer, Markovski, scored

Westvale's third goal in the 78th minute when he turned a shot home following a pass from Karkaletsis.

The Georgies gave themselves a chance when Hermosilla notched his second goal for the afternoon in the 82nd minute. Again, it was a goalkeeping error, Acteson dropping a seemingly harmless free kick from Hermosilla right into the net.

But Westvale killed off the Georgies hopes of a point with a fourth goal in the 90th minute when Dean Culina's pass enabled Angie Goutzioulis to squeeze the ball underneath Wardle.

Georgies: Wardle, Krajacic, Kanesoulis, Debono, Bot (Rozantis), Stojanovski, Allain, Elvin (Sacco), Recchia, Opazo, Hermosilla.

Westvale: Acteson, Goutzioulis, Zach, Karkaletsis, Brown, Medjedovic, Hasler, Timotheou, Markovski, Cvetkovski, Culina.

Referee: Bruno D'Aniello

Votes: 3- Karkaletsis (W), 2- Culina (W), 1- Krajacic (SG)

ALTONA MAGIC 5
BULLEEN 2

By Bert van Bedaf

A hat-trick by midfielder Toni Trifunov helped Altona Magic to a 5-2 win over Bulleen Inter Kings on Sunday night.

Bulleen played for over an hour of the match with only ten men after the 35th minute sending off of John Waddell for deliberate hand ball.

Altona grabbed the lead in the 12th minute when Ace Vasilevski shot home.

They increased that advantage on the half-hour when Trifunov turned and shot past Kings goalkeeper Sean Keogh.

Bulleen's hopes were dashed five minutes later when Waddell was dismissed by referee Jim Ouliaris for keeping out a goal-bound shot with his arm.

Trifunov stepped up and dispatched his second goal of the game.

Anthony Grbac gave the Kings some hope a minute before half time. His free-kick from the edge of the area squeezed through the wall and although Magic keeper Darren McGrath got a hand to it, he couldn't stop it going into the corner.

The Kings pulled it back to 3-2 in the 56th minute, Vlad Babic setting up Michael Mazzini and the Kings were back in the game.

But on 75 minutes, Altona won another penalty when substitute Zoran Todorovski was brought down.

Again, Trifunov made light work of the spot-kick to complete his first Premier League hat-trick.

The Magic weren't finished and scored another with just a minute to go.

Todorovski helped himself onto the scoresheet when he knocked in Zlatko Risteovski's cross.

Magic: McGrath, Bozinovski, Tasevski, Risteovski, Micevski, Madarovski, Vasilevski, Trajceovski (Todorovski), Sapazovski, Velkovski, Trifunov.

Kings: Keogh, Stojceovski, Everetts (Thomas), Della Rocca, Mazzini, Babic, Tartaglia, Waddell (sent off), Sherifovski, Grbac (Vucinic), Rusmir.

Referee: Jim Ouliaris

Votes: 3- Trifunov (AM), 2- Tasevski (AM), 1- Della Rocca (BK)

DANDENONG FALL FURTHER
INTO TROUBLESOUTH DANDENONG 2
SPRINGVALE W.E. 4

By Soccer Weekly

Springvale White Eagles recorded their second win within a week with a 4-2 victory over South Dandenong at Epping Soccer Stadium on Sunday.

For security reasons, no spectators or media were permitted into the match and the following details of the game come courtesy of the Victorian Soccer Federation.

The White Eagles took the lead three minutes before the break when Jim Gacovski shot home after a pass from Australian under-17 representative, Rade Culibrk.

Gacovski then turned provider ten minutes into the second half when he passed for Eric Styczen to tuck away Springvale's second.

Twenty minutes later, Gacovski and Styczen again combined, but this time it was Igor Mandic who provided the final touch to the flowing move.

A minute from the end, Gacovski capped off an excellent day with his second goal of the game, heading home a Milan Mihajlovic cross.

South Dandenong, as was the case last week against Fawknor, scored twice in stoppage time to add a bit of respectability to the scoreline.

Nick van Egmond made the score 1-4 when he chipped the Springvale keeper from 25 metres.

Shortly after, Festim Zekirija further reduced the deficit when he buried a cross.

*Unfortunately, Soccer Weekly were unable to gain team line-ups from this game. Votes for this game will appear in next week's issue.

FAWKNER 0 BENTLEIGH 3

By George Koukeris

In arctic conditions on Sunday, Bentleigh Greens turned up the heat on Fawknor Blues at Smith Reserve, winning 3-0.

The Blues looked withered and failed to create any impact as Bentleigh moved to a comfortable victory.

The Greens Juan Nilo set the pace early in the match causing the Blues defence some problems.

In the 36th minute, the Greens made their first breakthrough of the match when Cameron Pino blasted a ripper from within the penalty area.

The goal was a signal of things to come as the Greens moved into second gear with a string of very effective counter-attacks.

Fawknor tried desperately to find form amongst the confusion, hoping to rally against the attacking onslaught.

In the second stanza, the Greens resumed even stronger and more determined. Just five minutes in, they bagged their second of the match through John Papettas who converted unopposed inside the six yard area.

Fawknor tried everything to reverse the sliding trend but the credit belonged to the Greens defence that held up tight and strong to withstand the attacks and effectively hold back any chances for the Blues.

In the 80th minute, the Greens nailed the coffin shut as Tom Karapatsos' free kick curled beautifully around the wall to bounce favourably into the corner of the net.

Blues: Gonzalez, Tramontana, Grimaud, P Ferrante, Schipano, Di Sauro, Bordignon, Biskic, Emmanuele (Murphy), Duzel, Psarros.

Greens: Clarke, Karapatsos, Micheil, McDonagh, Constantinou, Drakos, Rossios, Pino, Papettas (Lawrence), Nilo, Kalimeris.

Referee: Andrew Stacey

Votes: 3- Karapatsos (BG), 2- Nilo (BG), 1- Papettas (BG)

eat well  live well

ROUND 17

Westvale 0 - Springvale White Eagles 6 (Mihajlovic 3, Oter, Mandic 2)
Bulleen Inter Kings 1 (Onjadic) - Sunshine Georgies 0

ROUND 18

South Dandenong 2 (Van Egmond, Zekirija) - Springvale White Eagles 4
(Gacovski 2, Styczen, Mandic)

Fawknor Blues 0 - Bentleigh Greens 3 (Pino, Papettas, Karapatsos)
St Albans Saints 2 (Sianidis, Karl) - Port Melbourne Sharks 1 (Knezevic)

Sunshine Georgies 2 (Hermosilla 2) - Westvale 4
(Karkaletsis, Brown, Markovski, Goutzioulis)

Altona Magic 5 (Vasilevski, Trifunov 3, Todorovski) - Bulleen Inter Kings 2 (Grbac, Mazzini)
Green Gully v Altona East and Melbourne Raiders v Preston
played Monday night

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne Sharks	18	12	4	2	44	21	40
Preston Lions	17	11	2	4	37	22	35
Green Gully Cavaliers	17	9	6	2	35	18	33
Fawknor Blues	18	9	3	6	30	23	30
Bentleigh Greens	18	7	5	6	34	25	26
Bulleen Inter Kings	18	7	5	6	25	23	26
Altona Magic	18	7	3	8	27	25	24
Melbourne Raiders	17	6	5	6	23	27	23
Altona East Phoenix	17	5	5	7	17	23	20
St Albans Saints	18	6	2	10	21	26	20
Springvale White Eagles	18	5	4	9	29	31	19
Westvale	18	4	6	8	24	43	18
South Dandenong	18	4	5	9	30	35	17
Sunshine Georgies	18	3	3	12	19	41	12

ROUND 19 FIXTURES

Sunday June 20

Springvale White Eagles v Sunshine Georgies - kick off 3pm at Serbian Sports Centre
Bentleigh Greens v South Dandenong - kick off 3pm at Kingston Heath Reserve
Port Melbourne Sharks v Melbourne Raiders - kick off 3pm at Anderson Reserve
Preston Lions v Green Gully Cavaliers - kick off 3pm at Goodyear Stadium
Altona East Phoenix v Fawknor Blues - kick off 3pm at Paisley Park

Monday June 21

Westvale v Altona Magic - kick off 8.15pm - venue tba
Bulleen Inter Kings v St Albans Saints - kick off 8.15pm at Veneto Club



VICTORIAN LEAGUES



CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 12
Kingston City 1 - North Geelong Warriors 1
Western Suburbs 2 - Doncaster Rovers 0
Heidelberg United 1 - Westgate 0
Springvale City 5 - Werribee City 0
Northcote City 1 - Yarraville Glory 2
Melbourne City 3 - Richmond 0
Lalor United 2 - Oakleigh 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lalor United	12	9	2	1	31	11	29
Heidelberg United	12	7	3	2	28	19	24
Oakleigh	12	7	3	2	19	10	24
Westgate	12	7	2	3	24	15	23
Western Suburbs	12	5	2	5	18	15	17
Yarraville Glory	12	5	2	5	17	18	17
Nth Geelong Warriors	12	3	6	3	14	13	15
Richmond	12	4	3	5	16	23	15
Kingston City	12	4	3	5	15	23	15
Doncaster Rovers	12	3	5	4	24	19	14
Melbourne City	12	4	1	7	19	27	13
Springvale City	12	3	3	6	11	19	12
Northcote City	12	3	2	7	23	25	11
Werribee City	12	0	3	9	11	33	3

ROUND 14 FIXTURES
(please note that a full round was played on Queens Birthday, Monday)
Saturday June 19
Yarraville Glory v Lalor United
Sunday June 20
Western Suburbs v Heidelberg United
Doncaster Rovers v Springvale City
Westgate v Northcote City
Werribee City v Melbourne City
Richmond v North Geelong Warriors
Kingston City v Oakleigh

DIVISION 2 - ROUND 12
Old Scotch Waverley 2 - Thomastown/Regent 1
Geelong 1 - Frankston Strikers 0
Croydon City Arrows 1 - Altona City 1
Satellite City Rovers 1 - Diamond Valley United 1
East Richmond 2 - Cranbourne Comets 1
Essendon 3 - Ringwood City 0
Frankston Pines 2 - Knox City 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essendon	12	8	4	0	31	5	28
Geelong	12	7	3	2	25	19	24
Frankston Pines	11	6	4	1	32	13	22
East Richmond	12	6	4	2	21	18	22
Cranbourne Comets	12	5	4	3	22	18	19
Altona City	12	5	3	4	11	16	18
Knox City	12	5	2	5	19	15	17
Old Scotch Waverley	11	5	1	5	18	18	16
Thomastown/Regent	12	3	4	5	22	22	13
Ringwood City	12	3	4	5	17	23	13
Croydon City Arrows	12	2	5	5	14	18	11
Frankston Strikers	12	2	4	6	14	18	10
Satellite City Rovers	12	2	3	7	9	25	9
Diamond Valley Utd	12	0	3	9	12	30	3

ROUND 14 FIXTURES
(please note that a full round was played on Queens Birthday, Monday)
Saturday June 19
Geelong v Croydon City Arrows
Frankston Strikers v Satellite City Rovers
Altona City v East Richmond
Diamond Valley United v Essendon
Cranbourne Comets v Frankston Pines
Ringwood City v Thomastown/Regent
Old Scotch Waverley v Knox City

DIVISION 3 - ROUND 12
Pascoe Vale 3 - Bell Park 3
Moreland City 1 - South Springvale 1
Stonnington City 2 - Williamstown 0
Laverton Park 0 - South Wantirna 0
Banyule City 1 - Keilor Park 5
North Coburg United 0 - Fitzroy City 2
Mooroolbark 2 - Broadmeadows City 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	12	9	2	1	32	14	29
South Springvale	12	5	6	1	18	8	21
Fitzroy City	12	5	6	1	26	17	21
Moreland City	12	6	3	3	24	15	21
North Coburg United	12	6	3	3	21	13	21
South Wantirna	12	6	3	3	20	13	21
Laverton Park	12	4	5	3	21	16	17
Mooroolbark	12	4	4	4	13	19	16
Williamstown	12	4	2	6	21	24	14
Keilor Park	12	4	1	7	17	24	13
Pascoe Vale	12	3	3	6	19	30	12
Bell Park	12	2	5	5	13	19	11
Broadmeadows City	11	1	2	8	11	27	5
Banyule City	11	0	3	8	10	27	3

ROUND 14 FIXTURES
(please note that a full round was played on Queens Birthday, Monday)
Saturday June 19
Stonnington City v Moreland City
South Springvale v Laverton Park
Williamstown v Banyule City
South Wantirna v North Coburg United
Keilor Park v Mooroolbark
Fitzroy City v Bell Park
Pascoe Vale v Broadmeadows City

DIVISION 4 - ROUND 12
Lalor 1 - Geelong Rangers 2
Lyndale United 3 - Seaford United 1
Clifton Hill United 1 - Sandringham City 5
Sunbury United 4 - Nunawading City 2
Crofton Park 1 - Melton 3
Chelsea 1 - Corio 1
Langwarrin 4 - Keysborough 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	11	10	1	0	39	9	31
Sandringham City	12	9	1	2	47	23	28
Lyndale United	12	7	3	2	27	18	24
Crofton Park	12	5	5	2	28	19	20
Melton	12	6	2	4	20	18	20
Sunbury United	12	6	1	5	25	21	19
Seaford United	12	6	1	5	25	23	19
Lalor	11	4	2	5	20	23	14
Keysborough	12	3	3	6	25	22	12
Clifton Hill United	12	3	2	7	19	32	11
Geelong Rangers	12	2	4	6	13	25	10
Corio	12	2	4	6	12	27	10
Nunawading City	12	2	1	9	12	32	7
Chelsea	12	2	1	9	12	32	7

ROUND 14 FIXTURES
(please note that a full round was played on Queens Birthday, Monday)
Saturday June 19
Lyndale United v Clifton Hill United
Seaford United v Sunbury United
Sandringham City v Crofton Park
Chelsea v Nunawading City
Melton v Langwarrin
Corio v Geelong Rangers
Lalor v Keysborough



EAT WELL LIVE WELL WOMENS LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION - ROUND 8
Endeavour United v Westvale - no result received
Cranbourne A 4 - Heidelberg United 0
Essendon A 2 - Manningham 3
Keilor Park - bye
South Melbourne - bye
Table - Cranbourne A 18, Manningham 15, Keilor Park 13, Westvale 10, South Melbourne 7, Essendon A 4, Heidelberg United 0, Endeavour United 0.

ROUND 9 FIXTURES
Sunday June 20
Manningham v Keilor Park
Heidelberg United v Essendon A
South Melbourne v Cranbourne A
Westvale - bye
Endeavour United - bye

- DIVISION 1 - ROUND 8
Ballarat Strikers v Yarraville Glory - no result received
Cranbourne B 6 - Seaford United 0
Endeavour Hills 1 - Newborough/Yallourn 3
Knox County - bye
Waverley Titans - bye
Table - Cranbourne B 19, Newborough/Yallourn 13, Yarraville Glory 10, Seaford United 10, Endeavour Hills 8, Knox County 7, Ballarat Strikers 3, Waverley Titans 1.

ROUND 9 FIXTURES
Sunday June 20
Newborough/Yallourn v Knox County
Seaford United v Endeavour Hills
Yarraville Glory v Cranbourne B
Waverley Titans v Ballarat Strikers

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 8
Fairfield Falcons A 6 - Thornbury United 1
Ballarat City 5 - Mill Park 0
Brimbank - Eltham North - no result received
Brunswick City 2 - Laverton Park 2
Essendon B 0 - Calder Strikers 6
Table - Ballarat City 22, Laverton Park 15, Eltham North 13, Calder Strikers 13, Brunswick City 13, Brimbank 13, Fairfield Falcons A 12, Mill Park 6, Essendon B 6, Thornbury United 0.

ROUND 9 FIXTURES
Sunday June 20
Calder Strikers v Fairfield Falcons A
Laverton Park v Essendon B
Eltham North v Brunswick City
Mill Park v Brimbank
Thornbury United v Ballarat City

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 8
Monbulk 3 - Frankston Pines 0
Carringbush v Gippsland Falcons - no result received
Monash Uni v South Wantirna - no result received
Bentleigh Greens - bye
Springvale City - bye
Table - Bentleigh Greens 18, Carringbush 13, Springvale City 10, Gippsland Falcons 9, Monash University 6, South Wantirna 4, Monbulk 4, Frankston Pines 0.

ROUND 9 FIXTURES
Sunday June 20
South Wantirna v Monbulk
Springvale City v Monash University
Frankston Pines v Bentleigh Greens
Gippsland Falcons - bye
Carringbush - bye

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 8
Melb Raiders v Diamond Valley Utd - no result received
Pascoe Vale 1 - Fairfield Falcons B 2
Deakin University v La Trobe Uni - no result received
Maribyrnong United v Melton - no result received
North Reservoir - bye
Table - Melton 18, North Reservoir 18, Melbourne Raiders 13, Fairfield Falcons B 12, Pascoe Vale 8, La Trobe University 6, Deakin University 6, Diamond Valley United 3, Maribyrnong United 1.

ROUND 9 FIXTURES
Sunday June 20
Melton v Melbourne Raiders
La Trobe University v Maribyrnong United
North Reservoir v Deakin University
Diamond Valley United v Pascoe Vale
Fairfield Falcons B - bye

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 8
ROUND 9 FIXTURES
Sunday June 20
Box Hill Inter v Monash Gryphon
East Bentleigh v Hampton Park
Crystal United v Sandringham City
Melbourne University - bye

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 10
Springvale Condors 2 - Monbulk 1
Murcham United 4 - North Sunshine Eagles 1
Sydenham Park 2 - Templestowe Eagles 2
South Caulfield 1 - Dandenong 1
Morwell Pegasus 0 - Brunswick City 0
Endeavour United 1 - Riversdale 1
Table - Endeavour United 28, Morwell Pegasus 20, Brunswick City 19, Riversdale 17, Sydenham Park 16, Mitcham United 15, North Sunshine Eagles 13,

Templestowe Eagles 9, Dandenong 8, Monbulk 8, Springvale Condors 6, South Caulfield 5.

ROUND 11 FIXTURES
Saturday June 19
Riversdale v Springvale Condors
Brunswick City v Endeavour United
Templestowe Eagles v South Caulfield
North Sunshine Eagles v Sydenham Park
Monbulk v Mitcham United
Dandenong v Morwell Pegasus

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 10
Melbourne University 5 - Keon Park 0
Somerton City 3 - Hoppers Crossing 2
Elwood City 0 - Glenroy 1
Meadow Park 0 - Mill Park 4
South Yarra 1 - University of Melbourne 3
Ballarat 2 - Broadmeadows United 2
Table - Glenroy 22, Hoppers Crossing 21, University of Melbourne 18, Somerton City 17, Ballarat 16, Elwood City 16, Melbourne University 14, Mill Park 13, Broadmeadows United 9, Meadow Park 7, Keon Park 6, South Yarra 5.

ROUND 11 FIXTURES
Saturday June 19
Keon Park v University of Melbourne
Mill Park v South Yarra
Glenroy v Meadow Park
Broadmeadows United v Elwood City
Hoppers Crossing v Ballarat
Melbourne University v Somerton City

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 10
Braeside United 1 - Heatherton United 2
Dingley City 6 - Newborough/Yallourn 5
Waverley Wanderers 1 - Brandon Park 2
Monash University 1 - Clayton 2
Doveton 3 - Dandenong Inter 1
Noble Park 3 - Ashburton 4
Table - Waverley Wanderers 25, Clayton 24, Doveton 20, Heatherton United 17, Brandon Park 16, Newborough/Yallourn 15, Ashburton 14, Dingley City 14, Monash University 8, Noble Park 7, Dandenong Inter 5, Braeside United 3.

ROUND 11 FIXTURES
Saturday June 19
Ashburton v Braeside United
Dandenong Inter v Noble Park
Brandon Park v Monash University
Newborough/Yallourn v Waverley Wanderers
Heatherton United v Dingley City
Clayton v Doveton

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - ROUND 10
North Reservoir 0 - Keilor United 3
Whittlesea United 7 - West Preston 2
Northern United 0 - Brimbank 5
Brimbank City 3 - Darebin United 2
La Trobe University 2 - North Glenroy 0
Flemington Falcons 4 - Watsonia Heights 4
Table - North Glenroy 24, Whittlesea United 24, Keilor United 20, Brimbank 16, Brimbank City 16, Darebin United 15, North Reservoir 14, La Trobe University 13, Flemington Falcons 9, Watsonia Heights 6, West Preston 6, Northern United 5.

ROUND 11 FIXTURES
Sunday June 20
North Glenroy v Keilor United
Darebin United v La Trobe University
Brimbank v Brimbank City
Watsonia Heights v Northern United
West Preston v Flemington Falcons
North Reservoir v Whittlesea United

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - ROUND 10
Moreland United 2 - Thornbury United 3
Newport United 2 - Rowville Eagles 2
Ivanhoe United 1 - North Caulfield 4
Endeavour Hills 3 - Parkmore 1
Noble Park United 2 - Old Camberwell Grammar 0
Beaumaris 1 - Collingwood City 5
Table - Noble Park United 20, North Caulfield 19, Moreland United 19, Endeavour Hills 17, Ivanhoe United 17, Collingwood City 15, Thornbury United 14, Rowville Eagles 12, Old Camberwell Grammar 12, Beaumaris 8, Parkmore 6, Newport United 4.

ROUND 11 FIXTURES
Sunday June 20
Old Camberwell Grammar v Thornbury United
Parkmore v Noble Park United
North Caulfield v Endeavour Hills
Collingwood City v Ivanhoe United
Rowville Eagles v Beaumaris
Moreland United v Newport United



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By Greg Welsh

OLYROOS DEFEAT ACT ROCKETS IN FRIENDLY

A who's-who of Australian coaching was on hand to watch the Olyroos comfortably account for the ACT Rockets at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Raul Blanco and Les Scheinflug were joined by a host of NSL coaches, including Ange Postecoglou, Graham Arnold and David Mitchell, who are at the camp to gain

their level 3 accreditation under the revamped national coaching system.

The Rockets, a representative side drawn from the ACT Premier League, were always expected to struggle with the tempo on a small, dewy AIS pitch, and only some heroic goalkeeping from Tony Giannasca coupled with bad finishing from the Olyroos kept the scoreline 0-0 at the half-time break.

A rare chance to the Rockets in the 52nd minute could have seen the underdogs take a surprise lead, however Steve Lazzari found his shot well blocked by Olyroos goalkeeper Joe Didulica.

The Olyroos finally breached the valiant but tired Rocket's defence in the 58th minute when Giannasca's goal kick was headed back by Con Blatsis into the path of second-half substitute Nick Carle.

The Sydney Olympic attacker charged down the left-hand flank before knocking the ball to an unmarked Clayton Zane at the far post who tapped in for the Olyroos first goal.

Giannasca made excellent saves to deny Brett Emerton and Michael Garcia in the 62nd and 81st minutes, before two late

goals put the result beyond any doubt.

The first of these came from an Olyroos corner which Zane nodded back across goal into the path of Blatsis, who headed home powerfully from close range. Then with just two minutes remaining, Michael Corcija swung over a right-foot cross for Zane to notch up his second.

Olyroos' coach Raul Blanco said he was pleased with his side's performance given they had only been together for three days and had been undergoing an intensive training and testing schedule.

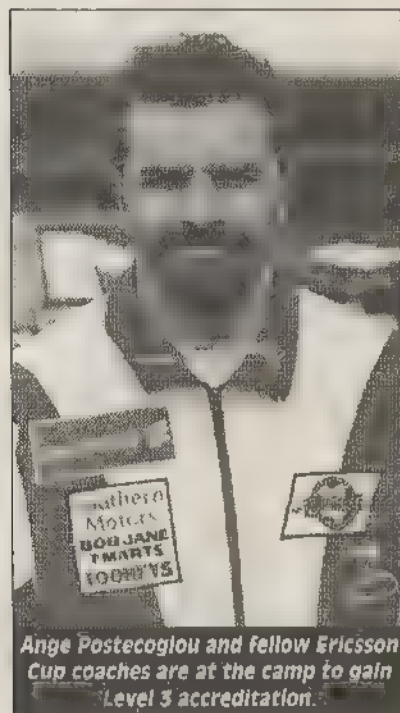
"Taking all of this into consideration I was quite happy," he said.

"I think they moved the ball well, they were very comfortable and obviously they won the game easily."

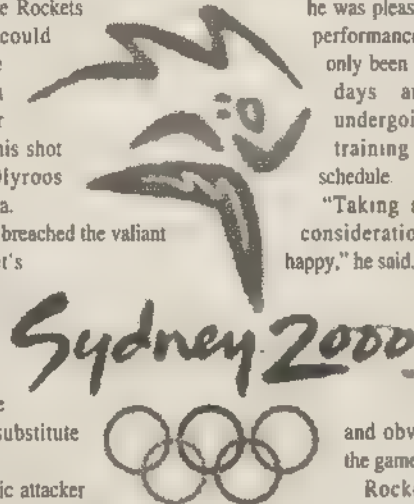
Rockets' coach Ian Heywood said his charges did well to hold the 'second-best team in Australia' to a half-time score of 0-0.

"We knew we weren't going to get a lot of possession," Heywood said.

"We knew we had to defend for long periods of time. Overall it was a good performance."



Ange Postecoglou and fellow Ericsson Cup coaches are at the camp to gain Level 3 accreditation.



Clayton Zane has continued his great form scoring two goals for the Olyroos as they defeated ACT Rockets 3-0.

The Weston Creek Royals bounced back from last week's loss against Gungahlin Juventus to beat Queanbeyan City 2-1 in their ACT Premier League clash on Sunday at Riverside Oval.

The result takes the Royals to equal first position on the ladder owing to Monaro's 3-2 defeat of Belconnen United, while for last-placed Queanbeyan, the narrow loss heralds a sign of better things to come.

Queanbeyan had conceded 38 goals in the opening seven rounds, and their defensive frailties were clearly evident in the early stages of Sunday's game.

Two excellent saves from Lions goalkeeper Daniel Vidovic denied Weston Creek striker Steve Lazzari, while an upright stopped midfielder Yoshi Sato's shot.

However Queanbeyan have been showing a lot more attacking spirit in recent weeks, and David Geremia's strikes in the 12th and 16th minutes only marginally missed the goal.

The 0-0 scoreline was shattered by Lazzari in the 52nd minute when he latched onto a Sato cross and found the clinical touch that had been eluding him in the first half.

Seven minutes later, Queanbeyan went further behind when Vidovic fumbled a Sato corner and Royals defender Tim Dale found himself in the right place at the right time to convert the easy chance.

But a stirring Queanbeyan comeback in the last ten minutes of the match very nearly saw the points shared. Firstly, Danny Burt threaded a ball through the Royals defence to allow substitute John Giotubovic to score with an inspired shot.

And with only seconds remaining, Vlatko Tomeski let loose a powerful strike that had Royals keeper Hassan Adhami well beaten, only to see the ball smack the crossbar and rebound to safety.

Royals coach Jimmy Bland felt that his side were the better team on the day, but reserved a bit of praise for a strong Queanbeyan effort.

"I think sometimes psychologically if you're playing

bottom-of-the-league you expect to be three or four nil up by half-time," Bland said.

"And that's probably what some of my players thought when they went out there. But it doesn't work that way, bottom-of-the-league will sometimes cause more problems than top-of-the-league sides do."

In other games, Monaro overcame league-leaders Belconnen United 3-2 at Hawker Oval to make a three-way tie at the top of the table.

Early goals to Joe Campagna and Danny Macor gave Monaro a 2-0 lead before Marko Perinovic drew Belconnen level with a goal either side of the break.

But Campagna claimed the winner after Belconnen were unable to effectively clear their own line.

Belconnen coach Lino Fiorese was philosophic about his team's first loss.

"I thought we played really well and created good goalscoring chances," he said.

"But we can't provide easy opportunities at the other end for a class side like Monaro."

A hat-trick to Gungahlin Juventus striker John Glass helped his side to a 4-1 victory over Canberra Olympic at Majura Oval. George Cattanaich brought up Juve's fourth, while Njegosh Popovich scored the solitary goal for Olympic.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Division 1

Belconnen United	2	Monaro	3
Burns Club	0	Canberra Deakin	4
Queanbeyan City	1	Weston Creek Royals	2
Gungahlin Juventus	4	Canberra Olympic	1
Capital City Suns	6	Uni of Canberra	1

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belconnen United	8	5	2	0	1	27	9	19
Monaro	8	5	2	0	1	28	11	19

Weston Crk Royals	8	5	2	0	1	19	11	19
Gungahlin Juventus	8	5	1	0	2	20	14	17
Canberra Deakin	8	4	1	1	2	17	8	15
Capital City Suns	8	4	1	0	3	22	14	14
Canberra Olympic	8	3	0	1	4	11	12	10
Burns Club	8	2	0	0	6	7	28	6
Uni of Canberra	8	1	1	0	6	14	27	5
Queanbeyan City	8	0	0	0	8	10	40	0

Under 23s: Belconnen United 2 Monaro 2, Queanbeyan City 2 Weston Creek Royals 6, Gungahlin Juventus 1 Canberra Olympic 3, Capital City Suns 0 Uni of Canberra 4.

Under 19s: Belconnen United 7 Monaro 0, Queanbeyan City 1 Weston Creek Royals 5, Gungahlin Juventus 4 Canberra Olympic 0, Capital City Suns 4 Uni of Canberra 3.

Division 2

White Eagles	0	ADFA	1
Sabres FC	3	ANU	3
Tuggeranong Utd	4	Belwest	0
Cooma	0	O'Connor Knights	1

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
O'Connor Knights	9	8	1	0	0	18	2	26
Tuggeranong	9	6	1	0	2	24	11	21
Cooma	9	6	0	0	3	16	15	18
Belwest	9	4	1	0	4	21	20	14
ANU	9	2	3	0	4	19	18	12
White Eagles	9	2	2	0	5	10	12	10
Sabres FC	9	0	4	0	5	10	27	8
ADFA	9	1	2	0	6	8	21	7

Reserves: White Eagles 6 ADFA 2, Sabres FC 2 ANU 1, Tuggeranong 2 Belwest 0, Cooma 2 O'Connor Knights 6.

Points: O'Connor Knights 24, Tuggeranong 21,

Belwest 15, ANU 17, White Eagles 14, ADFA 8, Sabres FC 6, Cooma 2

ACT STATE LEAGUE

Division 1: Valley Blues 7 Southern Spirit 1, Ginninderra 4 Uni of Canberra 3, Burns Club 2 ANU 1, Monaro 1 Canberra City 3

Division 2: Valley Blues 1 Tuggeranong 3, Ginninderra 1 Uni of Canberra 1, Belconnen 1 Belwest 1, Burns Club 1 ANU 5

Division 3: Uni of Canberra 0 Belconnen 4

Division 4: ANU 6 ANU 0, Uni of Canberra 2 Burns Club 2.

Masters: ANU 2 Kambah Rovers 1.

There are no Premier League 1 matches next weekend

Premier League draw for Sunday, June 20th

Uni of Canberra v Gungahlin Juventus
University of Canberra

Canberra Olympic v Queanbeyan City
O'Connor

Monaro v Capital City Suns
Riverside Stadium

Weston Creek Royals v Burns
Woden Park

Canberra Deakin v Belconnen United
Deakin

First Grade 2pm. Under 23s noon.
Under 19s 10am

AUSTRALIAN EDITION

SOCCER WEEKLY



1998/99 ERICSSON

SOUTH MELBOURNE



ON CUP WINNERS

THE WEEK IN THE GLOBAL GAME SPONSORED BY THE FOUR DIEGOT RADIO SHOW AND ADELAIDE'S COAST FM SOCCER



Frank Leboeuf and Jean-Pierre Papin do the hot shoe shuffle whilst playing in Papin's farewell in Marseille.



This man is obviously happy about something. Maybe Ronaldo is happy to be back home in Brazil. For more action from South America, turn to page 21



The party keeps on going. Fans show their appreciation as United parade the three trophies that they have won this season.

ASIA

Nanami to join Nakata in Italy

Japanese international midfielder Hiroshi Nanami will play for Italian Serie A club Venezia next season on a three-year contract, J-League club Jubilo Iwata officials said.

Venezia president Giuseppe Marotta met Nanami and Jubilo officials at a hotel in Tokyo where they reached an agreement on a salary of 80 million yen (667,000 dollars) and a transfer fee of 300 million yen (\$2.5 million).

Nanami, who helped Jubilo to win the Asian club championship in April and the J-League first stage, has played 51 games for the Japanese national team, including the World Cup finals in France last year, and has scored six goals for the Japanese.

The 26-year-old midfielder, who also trained with

Secretary Dato' Peter Velappan told a press conference after the meeting that an inspection team, which visited Lebanon earlier this month, met with government officials including the Lebanese President Mr. Emile Lahoud.

"We were assured of the government's total commitment and his own personal responsibility in ensuring the success of Lebanon 2000, said Velappan.

"We also visited the construction sites of stadia in Tripoli, Saida, and also visited the Beirut Municipal Stadium and left satisfied with the overall progress of work.

"Other facilities such as hotels and broadcasting facilities will also be improved."

Based on this, we are confident Lebanon should be able to host the Asian Cup 2000 and have reaffirmed this fact today," explained Dato' Peter Velappan.

The Executive Committee meeting also considered appeals from banned Chinese player Hao Haidong and Iran's Mohd Ali Karimi but declined to change the earlier decision.

Both were given a from domestic and \$2,000 fine and one-year suspension from domestic and international competitions imposed in February this year.

Haidong and Karimi were found guilty of violent conduct against the referee at the Bangkok Asian Games and the Dunhill Cup respectively.

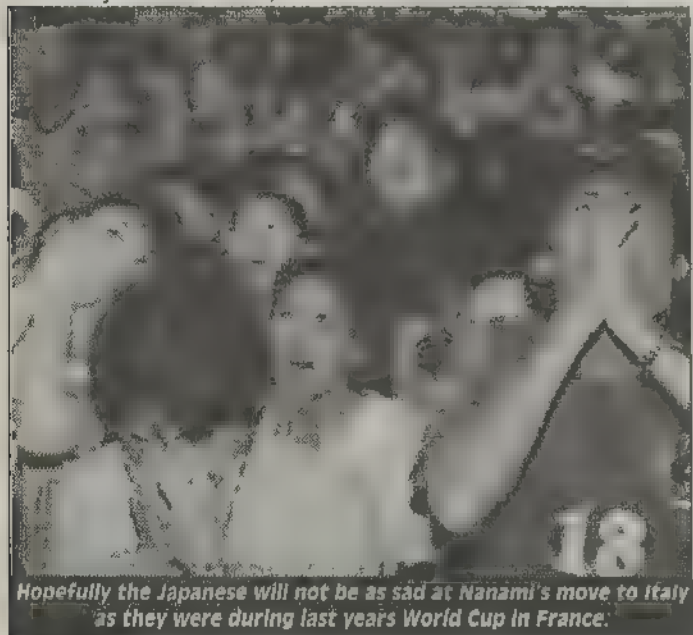
"There was a very serious offence and considering the AFC's policy of protecting referees against violent conduct

we could not consider any waiver or reduction of the earlier penalty.

It was also decided at the meeting that Al-Nassr Club FC of Saudi Arabia, the Super Cup champions in 1998 will represent Asia at the inaugural FIFA World Club Championship next January.

The winner of the 1999 Super Cup tournament featuring Japan's Jubilo Iwata, the champions of the Asian Club Championship and Al-Ittihad of Saudi Arabia, the Asian Cup Winners' Cup champions will play in the second FIFA World Club Championship. The 1999 Super Cup clash will take place on 23rd October 1999 and 18th November 1999 respectively under the home and away format.

The first leg of the 8th Afro-Asian Nations Cup '99 between Iran and Egypt will be played on 1st November 1999 and the return leg on 15th November 1999 in Tehran and Cairo respectively.



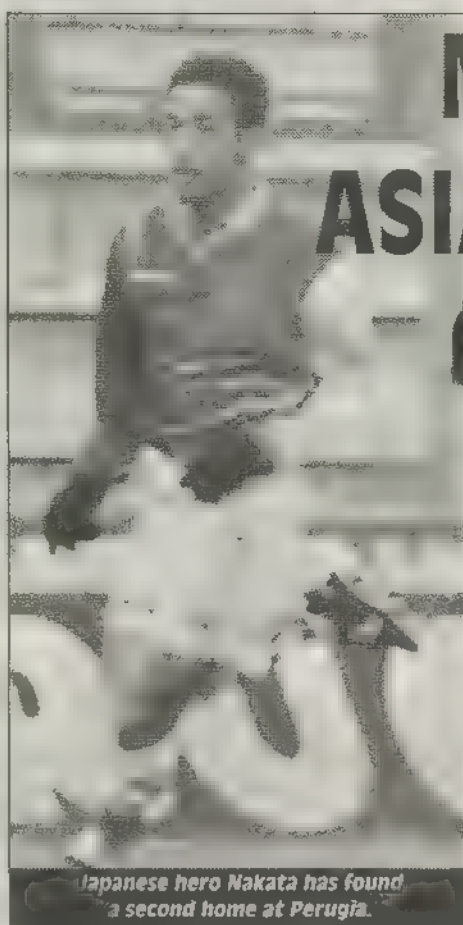
French club Olympique Marseille in January, joined Jubilo in 1995 and made his debut with the national team in August the same year.

He will be the third Japanese player to play his trade in Serie A, following Kazuyoshi Miura in 1994-1995 and Hidetoshi Nakata, who scored 10 goals to last season for Perugia to help them stay in the top flight.

Lebanon will host the Asian Cup in 2000. The AFC Executive Committee at its meeting in Kuala Lumpur, confirmed Lebanon as hosts after having indicated earlier that the country might have to give up the job.

This followed the lack of progress on a number of fronts including the construction of stadia as promised when Lebanon won the bid in 1996. This was also the result of a change in government.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) General



Japanese hero Nakata has found a second home at Perugia.

NAKATA: ASIAN PLAYER OF 1999

Hidetoshi Nakata was announced the Asian Footballer of the year last week and it is not hard to see why.

The young Japanese icon has made himself at home at Italian club Perugia, featuring heavily in the club's fight for survival this season.

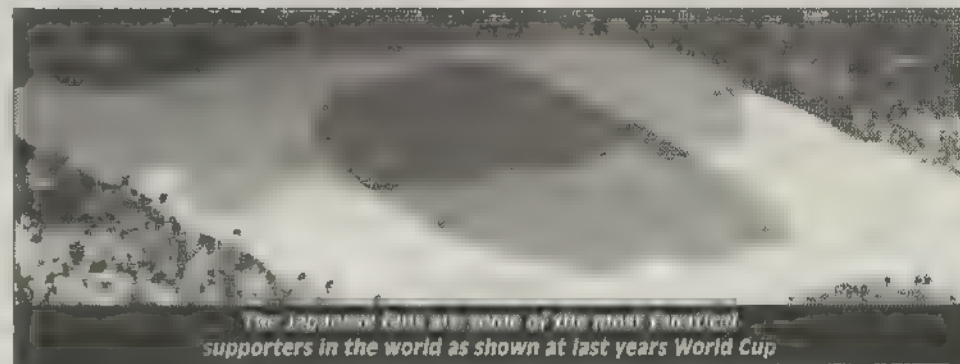
Nakata is now easily the most recognisable player to come out of Asia and is now the second of only three Japanese players to apply their trade in Italy.

The first Japanese player to play in Serie A was Kazuyoshi Miura who played from 1994 to 1995.

Nakata was the second and now the Japanese star has been joined in the Italian league by Hiroshi Nanami.

Nanami signed a lucrative three year deal with Venezia. He will move from Japanese club side, Jubilo Iwata for a transfer fee of \$2.5 million.

Nakata scored 10 goals for Perugia this season.



RED ARMY READY TO ATTACK IN THE US

Dressed in bright red team jackets and three-piece suits, the advisers, technical directors and translator for the North Korea women's soccer team could have been at a trial.

They answered questions readily, yet revealing little.

In the background, the 20 players chatted as they took off their warmups clothes and prepared for a workout at the Ballyowen Field.

Then they stretched, jogged a lap of the field and headed straight through the sprinklers watering the grass.

Their giggles and shenanigans while trying to see who could force the other to get most wet, drew smiles from reporters, if not from Korean officials.

If there is any pressure on the players of the most mysterious team in the Women's World Cup, it's difficult to sense. They seem to be having a ball.

Not that they will admit it when asked.

"We have been here six days, and our prime task is to qualify for the Olympics in Sydney," said captain Kim Kum Sil, the lone player made available for interviews at the only media session team officials planned to allow.

North Korea must make the quarterfinals to have a shot at the 2000 Games.

"A lot of things have changed, such as the time change. We are having jet lag and we still are not accustomed to the climate change," she said.

"We are trying to get accustomed to them and the things we can concentrate on as soon possible."

That shouldn't be very difficult, considering the way they are being sheltered.

Then again, for a nation whose athletes rarely travel outside of Asia, that's an understandable approach.

"We must not distract the players," said Ryu Song Il, secretary-general of the North Korean Olympic Committee, when asked if the players would be mingling with Korean-Americans during the tournament.

"Doing any kind of activities that might affect players while they are conditioning and training is not good."

The Koreans head for Los Angeles this weekend, where they will practice leading up to their tournament opener against Nigeria on June 20.

They play Denmark in Portland, Ore., on June 24, then they face the hosts America on June 27 in Foxboro.

Although little is known about them, they have limited experience on the world stage and have not been a soccer power in previous years. The Koreans remain confident they can advance to the second round, if not further.

"This is the first time our country is competing in the Women's World Cup," technical director Kim Hak Yong said.

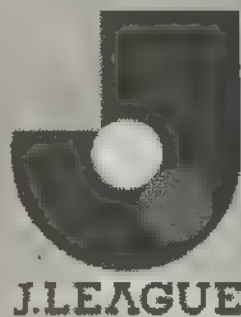
"Women's soccer was not started long ago in my country, but it has gained a strong reputation so far."

I think my team will play as a good, strong team this time. How we play against strong teams will demonstrate how we've prepared for this World Cup."



J-LEAGUE TABLES

These are the standings in the J-League as it takes a two month break for the Olympic qualifiers and the Copa America, in which Japan will compete as guests. The second stage starts in the first week of August.



STANDINGS

1 Iwata	15	12	0	3	29	15	34
2 Kawasaki	15	11	1	3	20	15	32
3 Shimizu	15	10	1	4	28	23	30
4 Kashiwa	15	10	0	5	26	18	29
5 Cerezo Osaka	15	10	0	5	25	21	29
6 Hiroshima	15	9	0	6	30	18	27
7 Yokohama	15	8	1	6	31	20	23
8 Nagoya	15	7	1	7	30	23	21
9 Kashima	15	6	1	8	23	19	18
10 Gamba Osaka	15	6	0	9	21	25	17
11 Fukuoka	15	6	0	9	23	30	16
12 Kobe	15	5	1	9	20	24	15
13 Urawa	15	3	4	8	21	33	13
14 Kyoto	15	4	0	11	18	28	12
15 Ichihara	15	4	2	9	19	34	12
16 Hiratsuka	15	3	0	12	15	33	9

Compiled by

AFRICA

EIGHT
QUALIFY
AS WEAH
MISSES
OUT

Eight countries have reached next year's African Nations' Cup finals but Liberia's hopes hang in the balance after George Weah missed their match with Uganda because of a flight mix-up.

The AC Milan Italian championship winner failed to make a flight connection from Nigeria and arrived in Kampala only in time to see Uganda clinch the points with a late winner from Philip Ssozi. Weah had been playing a charity match in Nigeria.

The 1-0 victory lifted Uganda into second place in qualifying group seven but they could still be overhauled by both Algeria and Liberia on the final day of the qualifying matches on June 20.

Meanwhile, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, the Ivory Coast, Morocco, South Africa and Zambia all made sure of their places in the finals next January, which are to be co-hosted by Ghana and Nigeria.

The eight join the two co-hosts, holders Egypt and Tunisia, who had already qualified in April, in the 16-team field for the tournament, which starts on January 23.

The remaining places will be settled from an absorbing finale to groups two, three and seven. There is also a special play-off group still to come, involving Zimbabwe and the runners-up in groups one and five.

In Group Three, Congo are a point behind Mali in the standings but they play their final match at home to winless Namibia on June 20, while Mah must travel to neighbouring Ivory Coast on the same day.

The Ivorians qualified with a late equaliser in their match in Windhoek against Namibia.

Striker Modibo Hamed Diallo, based in France with Le Havre, got an 87th minute goal to secure a draw.

Algeria were beaten 2-0 by Tunisia in Tunis, but are favoured to grab the runners-up qualifying place.

They have a home game to come against Uganda while Liberia host Tunisia in Monrovia on the same day.

Both sides have to win but Algeria have a better goal difference.

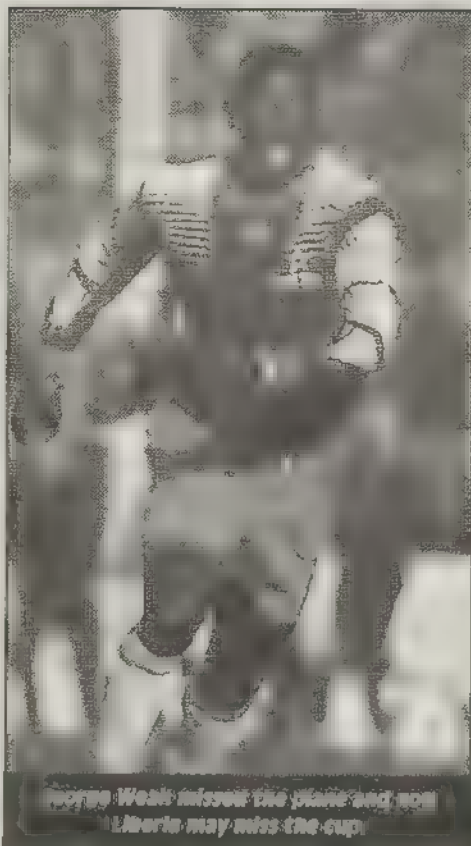
Guinea's defeat by Morocco in group two means they will need a handsome home win against Togo in Conakry on June 20 to take the runners-up spot.

A draw would be good enough to see Togo, one of the smallest countries in the qualifiers, through to a second successive finals appearance.

Morocco made sure of their place with a 1-0 win, with Spanish-based striker, Abdeljalil Hadda scoring after just six minutes.

Gabon qualified for their third Nations' Cup appearance with a convincing 3-1 win over Angola in Libreville.

Their win followed South Africa's progress from the



George Weah missed the plane and now Liberia may miss the cup.

same group when they defeated Mauritius 2-0 in Durban.

Cameroon's 1-0 win over Eritrea gave them the point they needed to go through as did the 2-2 draw for Burkina Faso against Senegal in Ouagadougou in group five.

The Burkinabe had to come from behind with Mamadou Kone equalising 10 minutes from time.

An own goal by Kenyan defender Ezekile Akwana was enough to see the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the former Zaire, into the finals.

The Congolese defeated Kenya 1-0 in Nairobi and join Zambia in the finals from group six.

South Africa have retained most of the players who secured qualification for the African Nations Cup for matches against Zimbabwe and Angola this month.

Coach Trott Moloto had hinted he might give his large European-based contingent a rest after the 2-0 win over Mauritius in Durban but has now decided they will be needed for the games against Zimbabwe on June 16 and Angola on June 20.

South Africa play Zimbabwe in Johannesburg in a friendly to mark the inauguration of new president, Thabo Mbeki and then fly to Luanda for their final Nations Cup qualifier, rendered meaningless after South Africa won through and Angola lost to Gabon.

Veteran midfielder John Moshoeu is out injured and midfielder Quinton Fortune has been released to finish the season for struggling Spanish club Atletico Madrid.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Brian Baloyi (Kaizer Chiefs), John Tlale (Mamelodi Sundowns), Hans Vonk (SC Heerenveen).

Defenders: Mark Fish (Bolton Wanderers), Pierre Issa (Marseille), Papi Khomane (Orlando Pirates), Themba Mnguni (Mamelodi Sundowns), Aaron Mokoena (Ajax Amsterdam), Lucas Radebe (Leeds United).

Midfielders: Junaid Hartley (Seven Stars), Joel Masilela (Mamelodi Sundowns), Papi Mbhele (Vaal Professionals), Helman Mkhalele (Ankaragucu), Thabo Mngomeni (Orlando Pirates), John Moeti (Orlando Pirates), David Nyathi (Cagliari), Godfrey Sapula (Jomo Cosmos).

Strikers: Shaun Bartlett (FC Zurich), Phil Masinga (Bari), Benedict McCarthy (Ajax Amsterdam), Daniel Mudau (Mamelodi Sundowns).

SOUTH AFRICA LEAVE
LEGACY FOR THE POOR

South Africa pledged to leave a legacy for underdeveloped African countries when it presented its proposals to host the World Cup in 2006.

"We have waited 100 years. It is Africa's turn in 2006. We cannot wait any longer," Danny Jordaan, chief executive of South Africa's bid committee, told a press conference in Cairo.

Africa will have been the only major FIFA confederation that has yet to host the tournament after the next World Cup finals co-hosted by Japan and South Korea in 2002.

Jordaan said his delegation had presented its proposals to the African Football Confederation (CAF) in the hope that it will help Africa's cause by taking a stand behind its bid or a rival one from Morocco.

This may still happen, he suggested.

Other contenders to land the 2006 event are England, Germany and Brazil, who have all hosted the tournament before.

In pushing South Africa's case, Jordaan said the South African Football Federation would, if it were awarded the cup, contribute \$2-million to kickstart a CAF trust that would ensure the development of soccer in Africa.

It would also offer a share of any surplus from the tournament, Jordaan said.

"We understand the World Cup is a multi-billion dollar business. But it must be a business with a social conscience. It must leave a legacy," Jordaan said.

"If South Africa (or Morocco) staged the World Cup, it would generate millions of dollars of revenue for other African countries through contributions from FIFA and through advance warm-up matches on the continent, he said.

Despite outstanding players and teams which have competed at top levels of African soccer, reflecting the continent's poverty, suffers from lack of medical, technical and other financial support.

On the business side, he said, "South Africa has already received pledges of corporate sponsorship amounting to one billion rand (\$160 million) and would generate much more if it were awarded the competition.

"It has all the advanced infrastructure needed to cope with a mass influx of fans and news media from all over the world, such as stadiums, telecommunications, hotels and highways.

"All of the stadiums are operational, Jordaan said, in apparent reference to Morocco, which said it would have to build new stadiums for the event.

"South Africa, emerging only recently as a democratic country of different races, offers the World Cup a way of ensuring the universality of the sport for the next century, he said."

South Africa will submit its final written bid to FIFA well before the July 31 deadline, Jordaan said.

Tunisian officials Yaiche Fakary and Fethi Boucetta have been banned for life from African Football Confederation (CAF) activities.

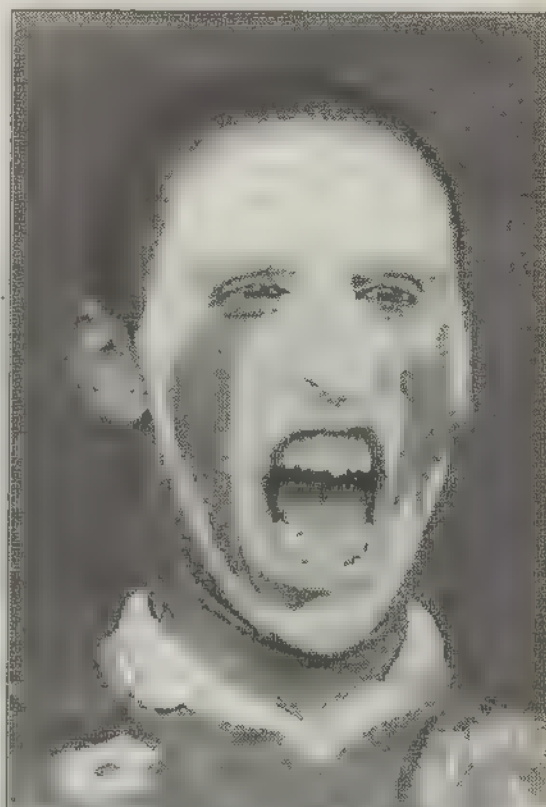
Club Sportif Sfaxien vice-president Fakary and committee member Boucetta were found guilty by the continental body of attempting to bribe Botswana match officials before a CAF Cup match in Zambia last month.

Defending champions Sfaxien qualified for the quarterfinals 4-1 on aggregate after losing the second-round, second-leg match 1-0 to Nkana FC on the Copperbelt.

CAF did not punish the Sfaxien team, saying the

match officials refused the bribe and that no element had influenced the result of the match.

Sfaxien will join compatriots Etoile du Sahel, USMA of Algiers, Canon of Cameroon, Zamalek of



A Tunisian fan at the World Cup. Soccer in Tunisia is not going well following the mess at Sfaxien club.

Egypt, Etoile Filante of Burkina Faso, Wydad of Morocco, and Kwara of Nigeria in the quarter-finals draw.

Fakary and Boucetta met Botswana referee Kabelo Molepo in his hotel room two days before the match and offered him \$500 plus unspecified gifts to ensure a Sfaxien victory.

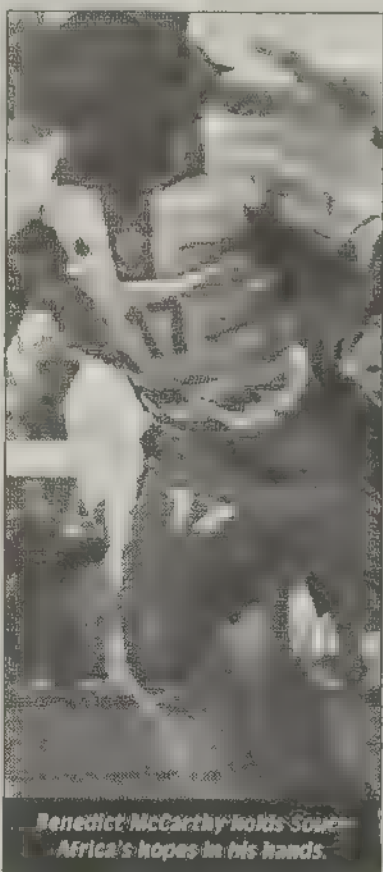
Molepo asked them to return the following day and when the Tunisians walked into the hotel room they were confronted by match commissioner Leo Mugabe from Zimbabwe.

The Tunisians, who claimed they were seeking advice on how to change dollars into local currency, were later arrested and charged under Zambian anti-corruption laws.

Tunisia last week barred Fakary, Boucetta and Salaheddine Zahaf — leader of the Sfaxien delegation to Zambia — from sporting activities for life.

AFRICAN
NATIONS CUPTEAMS QUALIFIED FOR NEXT
YEARS TOURNAMENT

- 1- Burkina Faso
- 2- Cameroon
- 3- The Democratic Republic of Congo
- 4- Gabon
- 5- The Ivory Coast
- 6- Morocco
- 7- South Africa
- 8- Zambia
- 9- Egypt
- 10- Tunisia



Benedict McCarthy holds some of Africa's hopes in his hands.

STH AMERICA

IN BRIEF

Boca Juniors has made Argentine championship history as it beat Rosario Central 1-0 to extend its unbeaten league run to 40 matches.

A goal by Colombian defender Jorge Bermudez helped them overtake the old record of 39 set by Racing Club in 1966.

Boca extended their lead in the Clausura (Closing) championship to seven points with three games left after second placed River Plate lost 3-1 to Newell's Old Boys, a game in which they had three players and coach Ramon Diaz sent off.

Boca need to win only one of their last three games to claim the title and a double, as they also won the Apertura, the first of the two championships in the Argentine season.

South America's Libertadores Cup final was evenly balanced after Deportivo Cali beat Palmeiras 1-0 at home in the first leg.

Striker Victor Bonilla headed the only goal just before halftime to give the Colombian champions a slim lead to take to Sao Paulo for the second leg in two weeks.

It was Bonilla's sixth goal in the tournament, making him joint leading scorer with five other players.

The rough match saw 49 fouls, many of them vicious, a linesman hit by an object thrown from the crowd and riot police with shields escorted Palmeiras players off the pitch at the end. Five players were booked.

Cali chalked up their seventh straight home win in the competition but the single goal lead may not be enough for a team that has lost five out of six away games.

Palmeiras, chasing a treble of Copa Brasil, Paulista (Sao Paulo state) championship and Libertadores Cup, were playing their fourth game in eight days.

The Colombians produced some incisive attacking play in the first half and created three good chances before Bonilla rose unmarked to head in a cross from Mayer Candelo in the 42nd minute.

Almost immediately, Palmeiras missed a good chance to equalise when the Cali defence made a hash of a clearance, allowing Osceas a free header which he directed weakly into the arms of goalkeeper Rafael Dudamel.

Palmeiras coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who led Gremio to the same title four years ago, brought on veteran striker Evair after the break and the former Brazil international gave his team more attacking punch.

Midfielder Alex missed an excellent chance in the 47th minute when his shot was pushed away by Dudamel, while Paraguayan Francisco Arce struck the crossbar with a swerving free kick taken near the corner flag.

BRAZIL LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH A DRAW

The Netherlands came from two goals behind to draw 2-2 away with Brazil in a friendly, denying the Dutch a historic win by an astonishing miss by striker Ruud van Nistelrooij.

Van Nistelrooij missed an open goal from six meters because he attempted to backheel the ball into the net in the 81st minute.

The PSV Eindhoven striker, in trying to provide a stylish finish after dribbling past one defender and goalkeeper Dida, treated the crowd to a moment of comedy as he missed the ball completely and fell over.

The Dutch, trailing 2-0 at the interval through

goals by Brazil's Amoroso and Giovanni, had fought back with two goals in three minutes by Patrick Kluivert and Peter van Vossen.

Kluivert broke clear on the right and scored with a well-placed shot in the 64th minute.

Then, van Vossen received the ball up on the left and slipped it through the legs of Brazilian debutant Evanilson, scoring with a chip from the edge of the penalty area.

Brazil, fielding a makeshift side because of club commitments and injuries, had dominated the first half, but the Dutch controlled the second after replacing Ronald de Boer and Michael Reiziger with Boudewijn Zenden and Andre Onyiah.

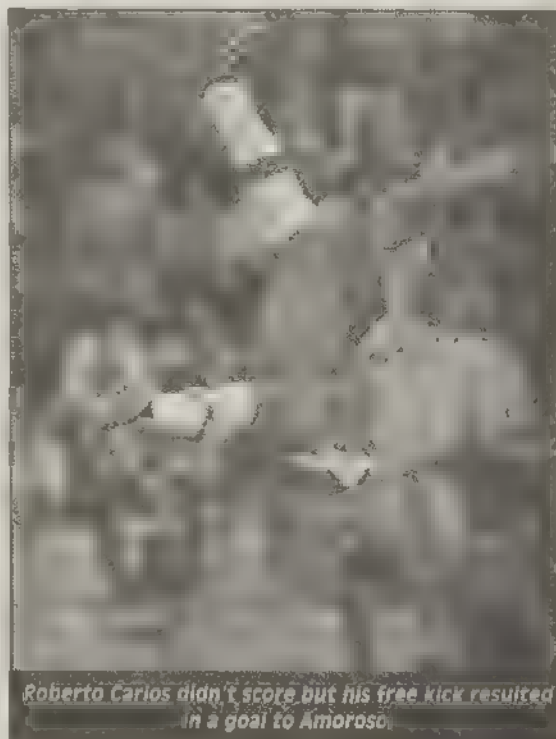
The home team burst into life after a slow first twenty minutes of the game.

Dutch goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar saved from close range efforts from Giovanni and Amoroso in quick succession before Amoroso opened the scoring in the 27th minute after Van der Sar could only parry a vicious swerving free kick by left back Roberto Carlos.

Giovanni was desperate to prove himself worthy of a place in the squad for next month's Copa America, added a second in the 45th minute with a left-footed shot that squeezed in at the near post.

The goal ended a move begun by 19-year-old Evanilson, who was working as a gardener a year ago.

In between, Amoroso, Rivaldo and Leonardo, making his first Brazil appearance since the last World Cup, had all come close to scoring as the Dutch appeared to wilt in the tropical humidity of Salvador.



Roberto Carlos didn't score, but his free kick resulted in a goal to Amoroso.

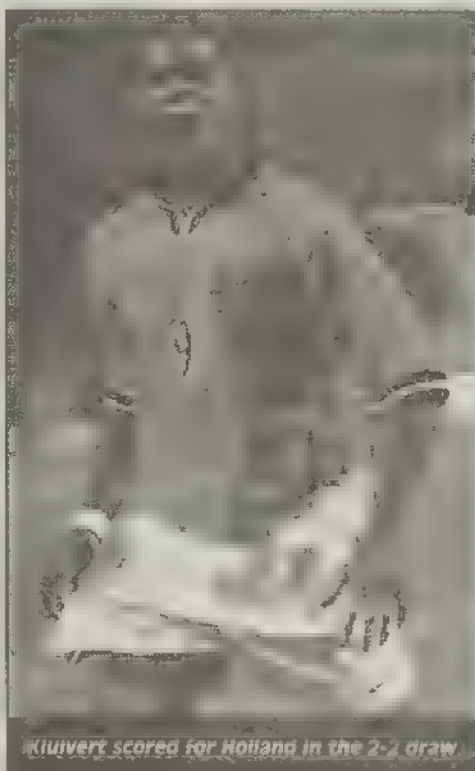
But it was the visitors who were full of running at the end, Brazil's only decent second-half chance coming when substitute Denilson shot narrowly wide.

Brazil were jeered off the field by their supporters after the game.

The two sides, playing for the first time since Brazil won last year's World Cup semifinal in a penalty shoot-out, meet again in Goiania on Tuesday.

The match hardly augured well for Brazil's bid to host the 2006 World Cup. Both teams struggled to cope with a bumpy pitch.

A disappointing crowd attended the match at the Fonte Nova stadium as the ground was barely half full even though the match began 10 minutes late.



Kluivert scored for Holland in the 2-2 draw.

MARADONA CAN'T KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE

Lawyers for Diego Maradona will appeal against a two-year prison sentence imposed on the former player for injuring, harming and threatening journalists, lawyer Hugo Wortman Jofre said.



Trouble seems to follow Maradona around.

The lawyer told news agencies that the defence would be based on "inapplicability of the law" and "nullity of the sentence".

In February 1994 Maradona, who led Argentina to World Cup victory in 1986, fired an air rifle at journalists who were outside a house in the Buenos Aires suburb of Moreno, where he was spending a weekend.

Wortman Jofre said the appeal would be made in the Mercedes Penal Chamber in the west of Buenos Aires province, to try and annul the sentence imposed by judge Dante Pietrafesa.

"If this fails, then the matter would be taken to the Buenos Aires supreme court and then the National Supreme Court.

Previously Maradona's defense team had sought for the sentence to be reduced to two years from the original demand of two years and 10 months but now they want the sentence annulled.

Maradona's controversial life was brought to the exposure in 1994 during the World Cup in The United States of America.

Since his bust for the use of illegal substances, life for who some say was the greatest ever footballer in the world, has been a non stop slide.

Hopefully Maradona can escape all this trouble and be remembered for his football and not as a fallen hero.

PELE TO SNUB BRAZILIAN WORLD CUP

Pele renewed his attack on Brazil's 2006 World Cup bid claiming that the president of the country's football federation was talking nonsense.

"The president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) can't keep on talking nonsense."

He has to work for the benefit of sport," said Pele, who last week said he wanted no part of the Brazil bid.

"If we had a project that was transparent and everything was being done in the open, then that would be okay. But we don't have any of this," he said.

"Brazil has not got any stadium, any pitch, which is up to the standard required to stage a World Cup match or meet the conditions set down by FIFA," added Pele, who was speaking at the training ground of Santos, the club where he spent 17 years of his illustrious career.

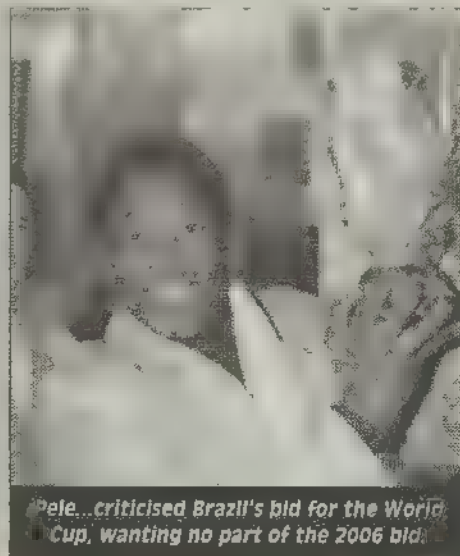
It's time to stop deceiving the people," said Pele began his attack in Barcelona shortly before the European Cup final.

He described it as a lost cause and a waste of money and accused bid organizers of wanting "to get some money without doing much work for it."

CBF President Ricardo Teixeira said that he

deplored Pele's comments and claimed the World Cup, if held in Latin America's largest country, would generate jobs, stimulate stadium modernization and increase tourism.

"All sportsmen and Brazilians in general wish for the staging of the 2006 World Cup in Brazil," Teixeira said in a statement.



Pele...criticised Brazil's bid for the World Cup, wanting no part of the 2006 bid.

NTH AMERICA

MIAMI BUY UP BIG NAMED PLAYERS

The Miami Fusion, struggling on the field and at the gate, have upgraded by acquiring Eric Wynalda, the United States' leading goalscorer, and Brazilian forward Welton as part of a four-team deal.

Wynalda, Welton and Colombian defender Arley Palacios were sent to the Fusion by the New York-New Jersey MetroStars, who had acquired Wynalda and Welton in separate deals earlier.

The MetroStars obtained Welton from the Los Angeles Galaxy for defender Roy Myers, and gained Wynalda's from San Jose to conclude an earlier deal that sent Raul Diaz Arce and Marcelo Vega to the Clash.

In exchange, the MetroStars received the "marquee" player allocation Miami had been owed when midfielder Carlos Valderrama was reassigned to Tampa Bay. That could wind up becoming former German national team captain Lothar Matthaeus, a 38-year-old sweeper whose career with Bayern Munich apparently is over.

"This is only the first step in a very ambitious plan to shape the MetroStars into the marquee club our fans deserve," MetroStars general manager Charlie Stittano said.

The big winner was the Fusion, who have struggled through much of its first season in the Major League Soccer despite Miami's multi-ethnic community and a history of drawing well for international games.

"We were able to meet our immediate needs and do so in a time frame that allows us to impact the standings now," Fusion managing director Doug Hamilton said.

"Quite honestly, though we may have been able to use that allocation for an international star.

"We added three players to the roster that all have the ability to change the game."

The Fusion rank last in attendances with average crowds of 8,461.

They had lost five straight games before last Saturday's 2-1 win over Tampa Bay. They are tied for fourth in the Eastern Conference with just eight points and have conceded a league-high 23 goals.

There also was the highly publicized feud between Valderrama and coach Ivo Wortmann, who accused his midfielder of ignoring his game plan and undermining his authority.

Wortmann exited Valderrama on April 15, and MLS commissioner Doug Logan reassigned the Colombian to Tampa Bay eight days later.

Welton and Palacios are expected to be available for Saturday night's game at Tampa Bay.

Wynalda is out until September after tearing knee ligaments last March while playing for Mexican team Leon.

To reach the MLS limit of four international players, the Fusion also announced they would waive Trinidadian forward Mickey Trotman.

D.C. DEFEAT CREW TO STAY TOP

Diego Sonora executed a perfect give-and-go with Roy Lassiter to score his first goal of the season in the 65th minute to give D.C. United a 1-0 victory over the Columbus Crew in a match between the Eastern Conference's top teams.

The win extended United's unbeaten streak to five as it last lost was on the 1st of May against Chicago.

Columbus remained winless in 10 trips to Washington.

United had numerous scoring chances but couldn't convert until Sonora and Lassiter connected. Sonora started the play by sending a ball to Lassiter in the middle of the box.

Teammate Richie Williams jumped over the ball, momentarily shocking the Columbus defence.

Lassiter then touched it out to the on-rushing Sonora, who fired it past Columbus goalie Mark Dougherty.

Lassiter's six-game goal-scoring streak was stopped, but the forward had a number of chances.

He nearly scored a few minutes after Sonora's goal, but Columbus defender Mike Lapper jumped into the goal as Dougherty was down and knocked Lassiter's shot away.

United often kept the ball in the Columbus end, forcing Dougherty to make 12 saves.

Goalie Tom Probst was rarely tested for D.C., finishing with just four saves.

Scott Garlick extended his team-record winning streak to six games and has not conceded a goal in 354 minutes as the Tampa Bay Mutiny beat the Miami Fusion 1-0.

The Mutiny have won six of their past seven games, the loss came when Garlick sat out a 2-1 defeat at Miami because of back spasms.

Garlick preserved his third straight shutout by stopping Jay Heaps' header from close range with two minutes left.

Alejandro Sequera scored for the Mutiny in the fifth minute, getting his first goal on a header from point-blank range. It was the first goal by a Tampa Bay forward in 308 minutes.

Garlick received help from Steve Ralston, who set up Sequera's goal with a crossing pass. With Garlick out of position, Ralston deflected Henry Gutierrez's scoring chance in the 25th minute.

The Fusion are winless in six road games this season. Miami hasn't won a road game since beating D.C. United 3-1 last Sept.

Sequera rejoined the Mutiny on after the team announced defender Jan Eriksson would undergo season-ending knee surgery.

New York-New Jersey MetroStars coach Bora Milutinovic has been described as a miracle worker for coaching Mexico, Costa Rica, Nigeria and the United States to the second round of the World Cup.

But even Milutinovic couldn't find a way to help the undermanned MetroStars stop Dallas Burn forward Jason Kreis.

Kreis tallied two goals and added to lift the Burn to a 5-2

Major League victory over the MetroStars, who played without a foreign player in their line-up.

The victory was the third in the last four games for Dallas which improved to 19 points on the ladder.

The MetroStars lost their third in a row. It was the worst loss of the season for New York-New Jersey.

Earlier in the week, the MetroStars traded Costa Rican midfielder Roy Myers and Colombian defender Arley Palacios to clear both roster and salary cap room.

They also were without striker and leading scorer Eduardo Hurtado, who was with the Ecuadorian national team.

"I don't think it's fair to say that it was easy," said Kreis. "They outplayed us the first 20 minutes."

Kreis claimed his late injury was just a "charley-horse."

He assisted Dallas' two first half goals, after the MetroStars pulled within 2-1, Kreis tallied a back-breaker in the 59th minute.

He gave the Burn a 3-1 edge when he fought off Mike Sorber and Dubaney in the New York-New Jersey penalty box following a long punt by Dallas goalkeeper Matt Jordan.

Once he gained control of the ball, Kreis turned quickly and slipped it into the net.

"When I played it over their heads, I thought they would take it away from me," said Kreis.

"They probably should have, but, as it has all season, the ball bounced my way."

Dallas coach David Dir admitted he tried to take advantage of the MetroStars' situation.

"We didn't know how organized they would be after losing so many players," said Dir.

"That's one of the reasons why we played three people up front because we thought they might have problems."

Dir was right on the money.

"It is impossible to be happy," said Milutinovic. "It is very difficult to lose a game like this."

There are no excuses. We lost our concentration."

The Burn scored in the 31st minute when John Jairo Trellez flicked a glancing header into the upper right corner after a cross from Mark Santel.

Santel played the ball in from just outside the box after taking a short corner from Kreis.

Santel made it 2-0, eight minutes later when he ran onto a pass from Kreis, turned rookie defender Kevin Knight around and carried the ball into the box. From there, he rolled a low shot into the right corner of the goal.

The MetroStars got one back in the 52nd minute when Mike Sorber's shot from the top of the box took a crazy bounce off the right post and skidded across the goal to the foot of Brian Kelly, who knocked it home.

The tally ended a 335-minute MetroStars scoring drought against the Burn.

Kreis added his second goal of the match and 10th of the season in the 66th minute when he took a pass from Dante Washington, forcing MetroStars' keeper Mike Ammann off his line, drilling in a low left footed shot.



MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER



Former Miami star, Carlos Valderrama

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FANS RETURNING TO SOCCER

Major League Soccer's season-ticket sales are up 12 percent this year, but that has only slightly helped its attendance numbers so far.

On his weekly conference call with reporters, MLS commissioner Doug Logan said the number of season tickets for the 12 teams in the 4-year old American league increased from 38,860 to 43,423.

The Columbus Crew was responsible for the majority, a record 9,083 tickets, or a 60 per cent jump, for its new stadium.

However, through 56 games, aver-

age attendances have only climbed half a percent to 14,456, which also is ahead of last season's final average of 14,312.

Besides Columbus, the teams showing the biggest increase in season ticket sales have been D.C. United (up 31 per cent), Colorado (up 30 per cent) and Miami (up 42 per cent).

"These numbers are very important to us," Logan said.

"Our ultimate success will be predicated on how well we do.

The year 2000 season ticket drive starts this week, since it is the way we treat our customers and the way we

treat our patrons is how we will be remembered when it comes time to renew."

Logan said 70 per cent of last year's season-ticket holders renewed this season.

This season's attendance leaders are Columbus, Chicago and D.C. United, all of which have drawn more than 21,900 per game.

One of the biggest reasons for the league average not increasing more has been the drop of the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Last year's league leader has seen an average of 7,500 fewer fans through its

first six games, and is drawing only 14,144 to the Rose Bowl.

"What we've lost in Los Angeles is not season tickets," said Logan, who noted the team was ahead of last year.

"A major market like L.A. with only 2,000 season tickets is not enough.

"If you are going to let your business be determined by the spontaneous decision-making of your fan on Friday night through Sunday morning, then you run the risk of having groups decide not to patronize you on a given Sunday evening," said Logan.

SCANDINAVIA VIA

NORWAY WIN AS FINLAND GET INVADED

Hakan Sukur and Tayfur Havutcu each scored twice, and midfielder Seren Yalcin was involved in three goals, as Turkey rallied from two goals down to beat Finland 4-2 in the Euro 2000 group 3 qualifier.

The victory kept Turkey equal on points with Germany at the top of the group while Finland fell six points off the lead pace and surely out of the race for qualification.

After falling behind 2-0 in the first 14 minutes, the more skilled Turks gradually rallied and finally they went ahead with six minutes remaining in the game when Tayfur headed in a long ball from midfield by Seren.

Three minutes later, Sukur sealed the victory for Turkey who have surprised many.

Finland led 2-0 early into the game after defender Hannu Tihinen blasted in a shot from close range in the 10th minute, and veteran striker Mika-Matti Paatelainen doubled the lead in the 14th.

Tayfur opened the scoring for Turkey in the 21st, getting an easy goal after goalkeeper Antti Niemi had stopped a shot to the low corner by Yalcin.

Sukur equalized for Turkey in the 34th minute, controlling a long cross from right back Fatih Akyel and he finished it off with a thundering drive under the bar and into the back of the net.

Three minutes later the match had to be halted when a few spectators invaded the pitch past passive security guards.

The protestors paraded different flags, representing Kurdish movement PKK, Kosovo and Finland during the interruption.

After a nine-minute delay, the game resumed and in the second half the running track was crowded with security and police.

Finland had a strong spell midway through the second half as Turkey's goalkeeper, Rustu Recber parried a close-in shot by Aki Riihilahti straight to Paatelainen who shot wide and Sami Hyypia skimmed the bar with a header.

The Finnish defence was shocked as Turkey piled on the pressure.

Chelsea star, Tore Andre Flo scored late in the second half giving Norway a much deserved win over Albania, 2-1 to further solidify its hold on Group 2 in the European Championship qualifying.

Norway improved its qualifying record to five wins and one draw, giving them 16 points, nearly twice as many as its closest rival, Greece, which won a tight contest 2-1 away from home.

The Norwegians took the lead only two minutes into the

game as Tottenham's Steffen Iversen drove a hard volley into the goal after the Norwegians received a free kick 25 yards out.

However, in the 16th minute, Albania tied the game up at 1-1 after another set piece.

Igli Tare beat the Norwegian goalkeeper, Frode Olsen from 22 yards leaving him stranding

Little happened in the second half before Flo's game winner. The tall Chelsea striker's goal came in the 83rd minute through a header after a corner kick from Andre Berdolmo.

Rikhardur Dadason scored for Iceland in the 30th minute and teammate Runar Kristinsson got another in the 46th as Iceland surprised Armenia in their Euro 2000 qualifier in Group 4.

Iceland, chasing leaders Ukraine and France, has 12 points in going undefeated in six qualifying matches.

Armenia on the other hand has only four points from six matches including a victory and a single draw.

Dadason scored the first of Iceland's two goals as he pounced on a loose ball in the goal mouth to tap in

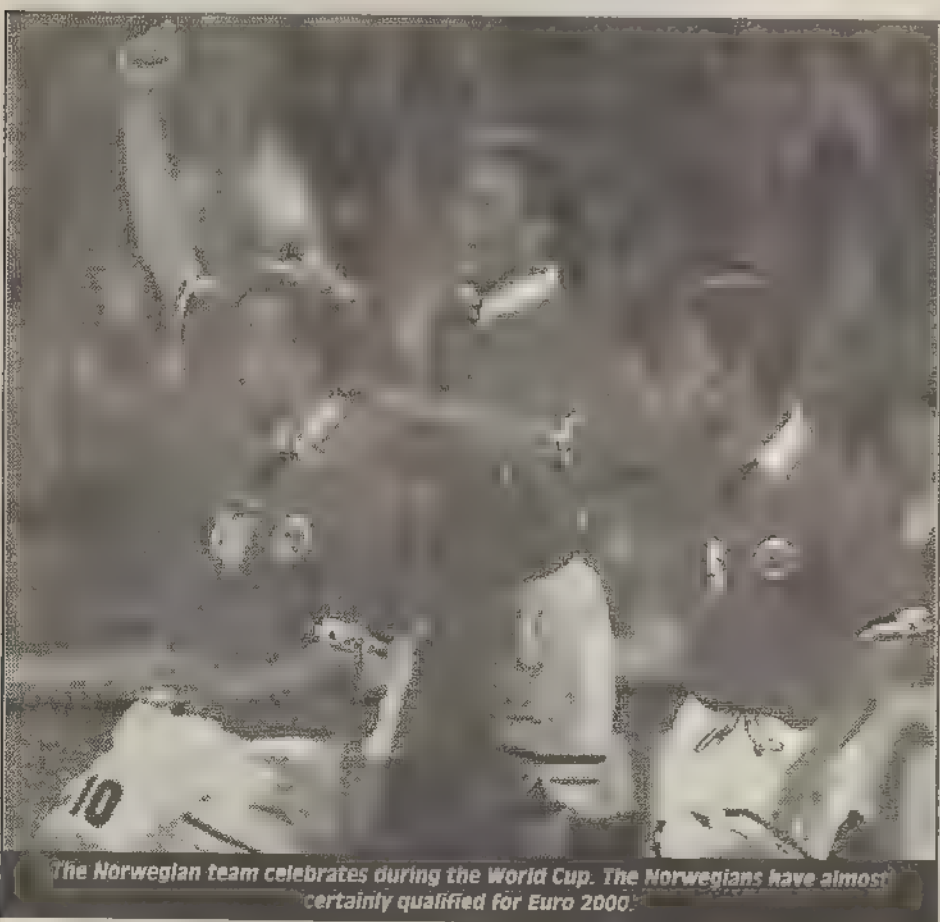
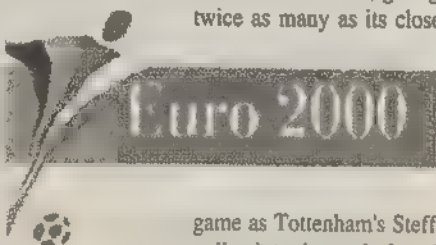
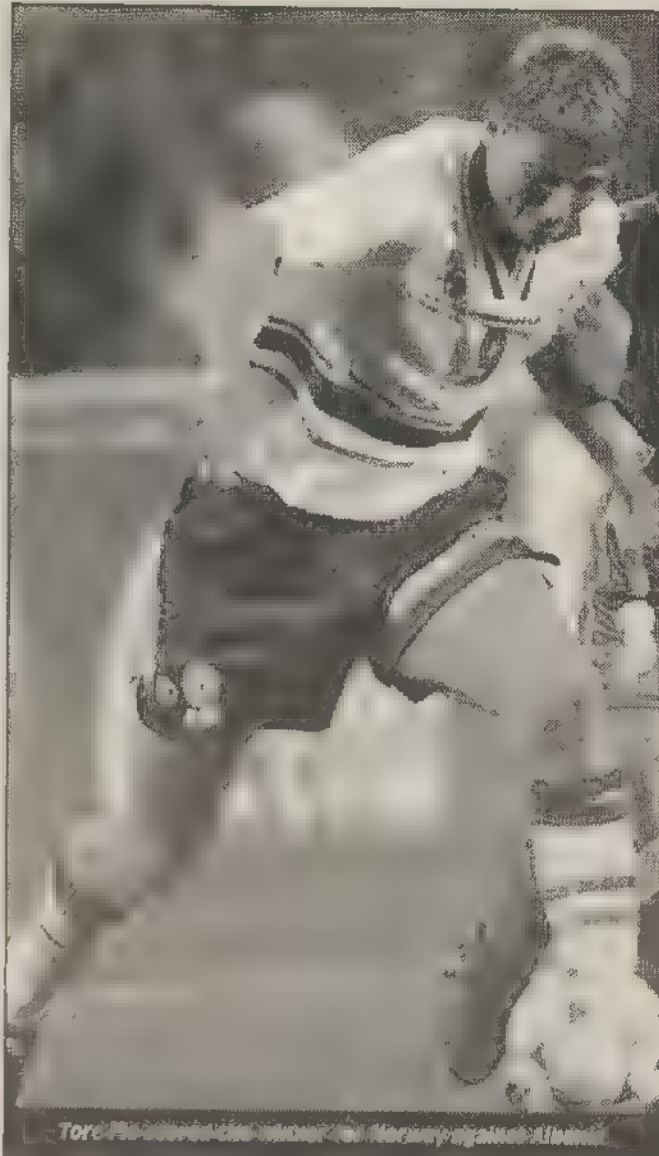
Teammate Kristinsson made it two as he scored off a cross from Dadason before 5,505 fans

A country of only 250,000, Iceland has already stood toe-to-toe with some of the powers of European soccer

In key qualifying matches so far in Group 4, Iceland defeated Russia by 1-0 earlier this year.

Iceland has also achieved a 1-1 draw at home with World Cup champions, France, and a 1-1 draw away to the Ukraine.

Iceland plays in Russia on Wednesday needing a victory to keep its qualifying hopes alive.



The Norwegian team celebrates during the World Cup. The Norwegians have almost certainly qualified for Euro 2000.

VIDEO COMPETITION

Soccer is the most popular and fastest growing sports in Australia, and 'Soccer Magic', a new coaching video by the Pied Piper of Australian Soccer, Dusan Purac, is a fantastic introduction to the skills required to make a success of the sport and will appear to both newcomers and experienced players looking to improve their touch on the ball.

For your chance to win a copy of this video, simply answer this following question:

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There are only two videos to give away so the more you enter, the better chance you have to win.

Prizes will be drawn on the 26th of June and the winner will be announced in the issue due for release on the 29th of June.



ITALY

ITALIANS CRUISE
PAST WALES

Italy has almost assured itself a place in Euro 2000 after demolishing the Welsh 4-0 and at the same time, ending any chance that Wales had of qualifying.

It was a clinical display by the Italians who now go on to play Switzerland, where another win will assure them of a berth at next year's tournament.

Wales boss Bobby Gould resigned after the emphatic 4-0 defeat, recommending that Neville Southall, who has been helping him on the coaching side, and veteran midfielder Mark Hughes are put in charge for Wednesday's game with Denmark at Anfield.

The former Wimbledon and Coventry boss said, "I felt I could no longer lift the players."

"I believe it is in the best interest of Welsh football if I depart at this time."

Unfortunately for Gould, his side were unable to repeat the heroics that had seen them secure victory in Denmark earlier in the campaign, as they were completely out-classed by a slick Italian side in Bologna.

Vieri opened the scoring after only six minutes when he headed home unmarked from a Diego Fuser corner.

Just after the half-hour, Italy doubled the lead, when Inzaghi bamboozled Andy Melville before slotting past Paul Jones.

Three minutes later it was all over when Vieri set up Maldini, and the full-back slotted in a rare international goal.

Gould threw on John Hartson up front for the second-half, but the visitors continued to find it difficult to make any headway up front.

It was 58 minutes before the Welsh carved out their first clear opening, when John Robinson cut in from the left to set up Gary Speed, but the Welsh skipper couldn't find the target.

Two minutes from time, substitute Enrico Chiesa rocketed home a 30-yarder to complete an impressive display from the home side.

Wales could not be faulted for their effort, but it was always a damage limitation exercise once the Italians had secured a commanding lead.

Bobby Gould realised that commitment and effort are not enough, and obviously felt he had taken the side as far as he could.

He admitted: "I hope Welsh football can be built on the foundations that I have laid."

"But I also believed that after this result the Welsh people would have turned."

Italy now are finding some good form despite finding themselves in a group which has so far provided them with little opposition.

Italy: Buffon, Panucci, Maldini, Albertini, Cannavaro, Negro, Fuser (Di Livio 67), Conte, Inzaghi (Chiesa 81), Vieri (Montella 45), Di Francesco.

Subs Not Used: Toldo, Pancaro, Ambrosini, Gnannichedda.



Vieri just can't miss for Italy

Goals: Vieri 6, Inzaghi 36, Maldini 39, Chiesa 89.

Wales: Jones, Robinson (Jenkins 77), Barnard, Page, Melville, Williams, Bellamy (Pembroke 80), Saunders (Hartson 45), Giggs, Hughes, Speed.

Subs Not Used: Legg, Coates, Symons, Crossley.

Att: 12,392

Ref: E. Stenborn (Germany).

Capello hired as
Zdenek is fired.

AS Roma will hire former AC Milan and Real Madrid coach Fabio Capello for next season, ending Zdenek Zeman's stormy stay with the Serie A club, Roma owner Franco Sensi said.

Capello guided Milan to four league titles in a five-year span earlier this decade, and led Real Madrid to the Spanish crown in his lone season at the helm, 1996-97.

Capello, a player for Roma in the 1960s, is expected to sign a two-year deal. He did not coach anywhere this past season, working instead as a television commentator.

"There are two announcements today: the firing of Zeman and the hiring of Capello," Sensi said. Asked to explain the moves, the owner replied, "It's time to win."

Under Zeman, Roma finished fourth a year ago and fifth this season with a 15-9-10 record. His wide-open brand of soccer produced a league-high 69 goals this year, two per game, but the team also allowed 49.

"I had to do what was good for the franchise and the fans," Sensi said. "Zeman, though, is an exemplary professional and a good person, and I thank him for what he has done for us during these two years."

Under the Czech coach's tutelage, young playmaker Francesco Totti became a mainstay on the national team, while Luigi Di Biagio, Eusebio Di Francesco and Marco Delvecchio all made their debuts for Italy.

"I'm pretty disappointed and upset," Totti said. "It came from nowhere and it's a blow, because I'm close to Zeman. He helped me a lot."

In February, Zeman was given a contract extension, tying him to Roma through next season.

He caused a stir last summer by remarking in an interview that he was



"amazed" at the sudden muscular development of certain soccer players.

The comments led to four separate investigations into doping in Italian sports. Things should be much different under Capello, 52, who is soft-spoken off the field and preaches defense on it.

His 1993-94 Milan club set Serie A records for fewest goals allowed in a 34-game season (15), and fewest goals scored by a title-winner (36). That side also won the Champions Cup.

Capello's 1991-92 Milan side is the only team to go undefeated for an entire 34-game season.

His latest stint as a coach was not a success, however. After his one year at Madrid, Capello was lured back to Milan for the 1997-98 season, but the team finished only 10th in the 18-team Serie A, and he was replaced by Alberto Zaccheroni.

Capello captured four league titles and one Italian Cup during his playing career with Spal, Roma, Juventus and Milan.



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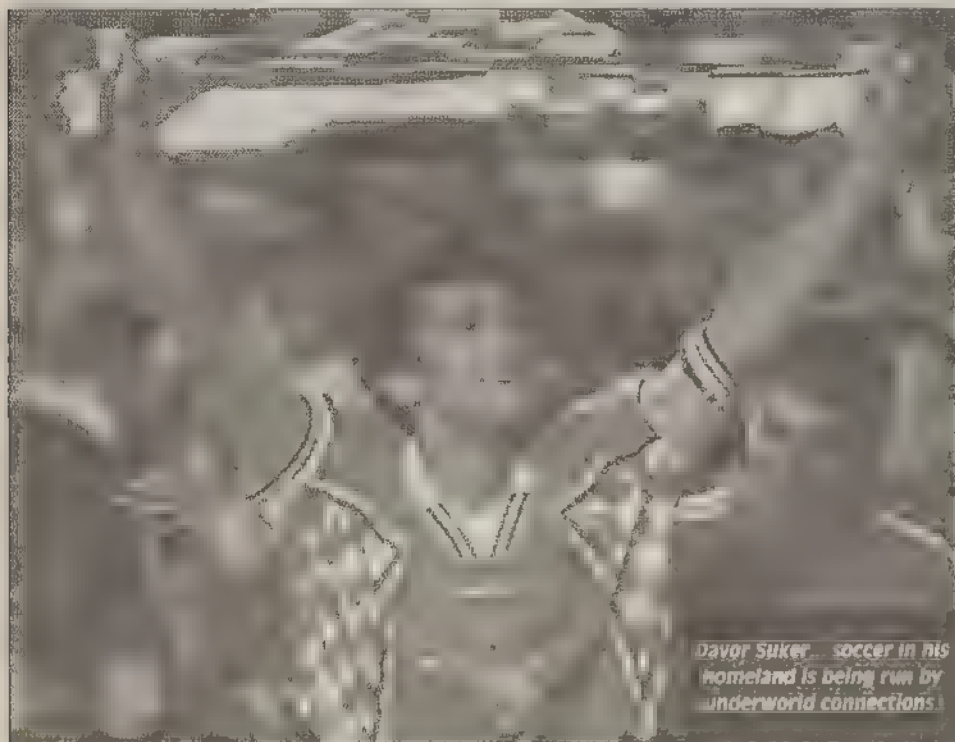
Croatian soccer is rigged

Croatia's national league is rigged by politicians, secret police and referees with underworld connections, an independent weekly has alleged.

The report appeared a week after a dubious offside ruling in the dying minutes of the season finale which prevented front-running Rijeka from winning its first league title.

The result, a 1-1 draw with Osijek, enabled Croatia Zagreb, the darling of politicians in the governing Croatian Democratic Union and President Franjo Tudjman, to clinch its fifth crown.

"Clubs, reporters and fans are bugged, while bribed referees are instructed to rule in favor of Croatia Zagreb," the weekly Nacional asserted in a front-page feature.



Davor Suker... soccer in his homeland is being run by underworld connections

The paper, which often is critical of the Tudjman government but has well-placed sources, cited what it said were intelligence service documents.

The report alleged that politicians of the ruling party who manage Croatia Zagreb abused their powers to divert public funds to the club and provide it with plush facilities.

Club president Zlatko Cankija, who is also president of the Zagreb municipal government, denied the allegations and told the daily Jutarnji List that the club would

pursue legal charges against the paper.

Many sports fans believe corruption is rife within the league and that match-fixing denied Rijeka of the title because the northern port city, which supports the club, is run by the main opposition political party, the Social Democrats.

Nacional alleged that a syndicate had been set up among referees to ensure that referees calls went in favor of Croatia Zagreb.

The report said phones of journalists who had written critically about Croatia were being tapped and that some fans who criticized the politicization of the club were being stalked or put under surveillance.

"Angry supporters have often clashed with police or organized boycotts of the teams matches."

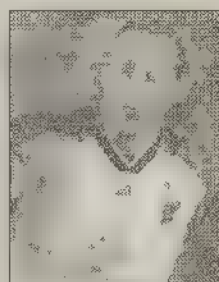
The head of the national referee association, Veselko

Bebek, announced his resignation after an amateur video and freeze-frame footage clearly showed the linesman making erroneous calls in the crucial Rijeka-Osijek match.

"The alliance between politics and sports has become starkly obvious to everyone," said Hrvoje Sarinic, a top executive of Rijeka and former top adviser to Tudjman.

"A terrible atmosphere has descended upon Croatian sport, particularly in soccer, where the championship is reserved in advance for one club only," he said.

PAPIN SAYS GOODBYE



French legend Jean-Pierre Papin has said his final farewell to soccer with a testimonial match in France.

Papin helped a World XI draw 2-2 with world champions France at Marseille's Velodrome Stadium.

The Velodrome was packed to its 60,000 capacity mainly by Olympique Marseille fans who saw Papin at the peak of his career as a brilliant goalscorer for their team and his country in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"It was really magic to finish in Marseille, in this jewel that is the Velodrome," Papin told the crowd after the match.

Twice the World XI went ahead only for France, warming up for Euro 2000 qualifiers on June 5 and 9, to pull level almost immediately.

German Joerg Albertz of Glasgow Rangers opened the scoring in the 57th minute with Youri Djorkaeff of Inter Milan equalising with a 59th minute penalty.

Papin laid on the World XI's second for striker Lilian Laslandes, who won the French league title with Girondins Bordeaux in the 75th.

But Arsenal's Nicolas Anelka again levelled the score within two minutes.

Japan's Kazu Miura hit the bar for the World XI in the first half. In the second, French defender Vincent Candela hit the post and Papin the bar with the last shot of the match.

Papin's invitation team was made up largely of his former team mates at some of the clubs he played for, including Paris St Germain's Marco Simone, his fellow striker at AC Milan, and several Bayern Munich defenders.

All the proceeds are going to Papin's Neuf de Coeur (Nine of Hearts) charity for handicapped children which he founded initially to help fund specialist treatment in the United States for his own handicapped daughter Amelie.

Papin, who won 54 caps and scored 30 goals for France, retired early in the season while playing for French second division En Avant Guingamp.

He has been keeping fit with appearances for a team in the Reunion Island League.

He won four successive league titles with Marseille and played in their losing side in the 1991 European Cup final against Yugoslavia's Crvena Zvezda Belgrade.

Papin was again on the losing side again against his old club Marseille beat when the French team beat AC Milan in the final two years later.

He later joined Bayern Munich, helping them win the 1996 UEFA Cup, ending his first division career with Bordeaux.



CLUBS LAY DOWN THE LAW

Europe's top clubs have announced that they want the right to refuse players a release from their club to play any friendly internationals.

The G-14 group of clubs, which held its latest meeting in a Madrid Casino, also called for compensation for players called up for all international fixtures and a revised calendar to cut down on mid-season friendlies.

Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz, chairman of the group, expressed satisfaction with the way the G-14 has successfully lobbied for greater income from the UEFA Champions' League.

He signalled that the attention of the G-14 clubs is set to turn to the pressing matter of club compensation for highly paid players.

"The decision on players' availability for friendlies should be left up to the clubs," Sanz said.

"And with regard to official matches, we believe it is necessary to establish insurance for the clubs, economic compensation from the national associations and a schedule that respects the interests of the clubs."

"We are due to have a meeting with Sepp Blatter (FIFA president) over this issue."

"In the case of Real Madrid, we have a vital Cup game this week and we'll be missing eight players, some of them due to friendly matches."

"This is a problem that concerns us all and it needs to be addressed."

Sanz said the G-14 would continue to meet in Madrid over the next 12 months, despite the fact that five of its members have no chance of competing in the Champions' League next season.

We believe the G-14 still has a role to play. We're stronger now and we'll continue to work with FIFA and UEFA and to defend our interests," said Sanz.

The G-14 includes Real Madrid, Ajax Amsterdam, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Inter Milan, AC Milan, Juventus, Liverpool, Manchester United, Olympique Marseille, Oporto, Paris Saint Germain and PSV Eindhoven.

Only 12 of the clubs were represented at this meeting, with Marseille and Liverpool the missing parties.

INTERTOTO CUP DRAW

The importance of this season's Intertoto Cup, held as a qualification tournament to next season's UEFA Cup, is second to none due to the number of big named clubs who have failed to gain direct access through to the tournament and are now trying to reach the UEFA Cup through this tournament.

Teams who will fight out the tournament include Perugia, IFK Gothenburg and West Ham just to mention a few, who all find themselves placed in the second round of the competition.

Below is a list of the first round matches in the Intertoto Cup to be played on June 19 and 20 with the return leg to be played a week later.

SK Brann (Nor) v Ventspils (Lat)
Spartak Varna (Bul) v St Truiden (Bel)
Poland Warsaw (Pol) v FC Tiligul (Mol)

FC Podelva (Mkd) v Ozeta Dukla Trencin (Svk)
Rudar Velenje (Slo) v Halmstad (Swe)
Herfolge (Den) v MSK Zilina (Svk)
FCM Bacau (Rom) v FC Ararat (Arm)
Locomotiv Vitebsk (Blr) v NK Varteks (Cro)
US Luxembourg (Lux) v Vasas SC (Hun)
Shelbourne (Irl) v Neuchatel Xamax
or FC Lucerne (Swi)
Ceahlau Piatra Neamt (Rom) v FC Ekranas (Lit)
Hradec Kralove (Cze) v FC Gomel (Blr)
Hrvatski Dragovoljac (Cro) v Newry Town (Nir)
Maccabi Haifa (Isr) v Karabakh Agdam (Aze)
Cementarnica 55 (Mkd) v Kolsheti 1913 (Geo)
Korotan (Slo) v FC Basle (Swi)
Bosnian club yet to be decided v GI Goetu (Far)
Aberystwyth (Wal) v Floriana (Mlt)
IA Akranes (Isl) v KF Teuta (Alb)
Jokerit (Fin) v Trans Narva (Est)

Compiled by

EUROPE

IN BRIEF

Ajax Amsterdam has unveiled its latest purchase, Dutch international and former Ajax player, Aron Winter. Winter, who played in midfield and at right back for Holland during last year's World Cup, has signed a four year contract with the Amsterdam club.

The 32-year-old left Ajax after seven seasons to join Italian sides Lazio and Roma, as well as Inter Milan.

Winter becomes the second player this week to return to the Ajax fold after the signing of goalkeeper Stanley Menzo from Belgian club Lierse.

Together with Ronald Koeman, Winter is the Netherlands' second most capped player, with 77 appearances and six goals.

Aime Jacquet, France's World Cup winning coach has published his autobiography, still basking in his status as a national hero, but still unforgiving towards the critics who vilified him before the host nation's World Cup victory last July.

Jacquet, despite having led France to the semi-finals of Euro 96, where they lost on penalties to the Czech Republic and despite the longest winning streak in the history of the national team, was nonetheless consistently criticised by the French media before the World Cup win, in particular by sports paper L'Equipe.

In the euphoria that followed France's 3-0 World Cup final win over Brazil, Jacquet wreaked his revenge.

He walked into the post-match press conference with the World Cup and, in remarks directed towards L'Equipe journalists, said, "I will never forgive, never."

French first division side Auxerre has agreed to a deal with Glasgow Rangers, for French striker, Stephan Guivarch. Guivarch, a member of France's World Cup winning team, will sign a four year deal with Auxerre, and then will be integrated into the Burgundy club's coaching staff when that contract is up, according to French sports paper L'Equipe.

Parma defender Fabio Cannavaro has tucked off his French teammate Lilian Thuram, telling his fellow defender to stop squabbling over his contract.

Thuram, linked with Inter Milan, caused a stir by telling a French newspaper that he didn't understand why Parma midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron is being allowed to leave, but he must see out his three-year contract.

Cannavaro, who helped Parma win last season's UEFA and Italian Cups, said, "I read Thuram's comments and in my opinion, he would have done better to have talked about his problems with the club, instead of a newspaper."

"And anyway, I think that in the end, no one is going to be leaving."

But he added, "Many of us have had a lot of offers to move, but we also have long-term contracts and they ought to be respected."

Thuram also said he wanted to play for a big club in front of a large, packed stadium, so as not to have any regrets when he retired.

"I don't know why he's said these things," Cannavaro said.

"They are just excuses for leaving, and if Lilian wasn't convinced about the club, he should have thought about that two years ago. I've always thought that if a club doesn't give you any guarantees, then it's better to move on."

"But that's certainly not the case at Parma. They may not have a huge crowd, but they have an ambitious project for the future. They are moving well on the transfer market and they are aiming to win the league."

"And for that very reason they cannot afford to let players go who are as decisive and irreplaceable as Thuram."

Argentina's Roberto Mario Gomez, coach of Argentinian first-division club Lanus, said he would be replacing compatriot Hector Cuper as Real Mallorca coach.

Gomez said he would finish the closing championship in Argentina before going to Mallorca, where he will have a two-year contract.

Ironically, Gomez replaced Cuper as Lanus coach, when Cuper parted company with the club to begin work at Mallorca.

Mallorca, who was only promoted to the Spanish championship two seasons ago, finished second in the Spanish Cup last season and reached the final of the UEFA Cup this year.

BIERHOFF ENDS HIS GOAL DROUGHT WITH A FLOOD

Captain Oliver Bierhoff broke his goal drought for his country in a big way, scoring a hat-trick, to help Germany crush Moldova, 6-1 in their European Championship qualifier, consolidating their lead at the top of group three.

Bierhoff opened the scoring after just two minutes, and then scored his second in the 55th minute, giving the Germans a 4-0 lead. The captain completed his hat-trick eight minutes from time.

In the meantime, fellow striker Ulf Kirsten put Germany 2-0 up in the 27th minute and winger Marco Bode made it 3-0 seven minutes from the interval.

Substitute Mehmet Scholl scored Germany's fifth goal in the 71st minute.

The visitors' only goal came through midfielder Gheorghe Stratulat five minutes later.

Germany, who had started their campaign for Euro 2000 with a 1-0 loss to Turkey, now has 12 points from five games and a superior goal difference. Its next match is away to Finland on Sept. 4.

Moldova remained at the bottom of Group 3 with just two points from six games. It is a home to Finland on Wednesday.

Poland beat Bulgaria 2-0 in their group five European Championship qualifier to preserve its slim chance of qualifying for Euro 2000.

Midfielder Tomasz Hajto, who plays for MSV Duisburg in Germany, scored the first goal, with a fierce shot, following a corner kick in the 15th minute.

Striker Tomasz Iwan, from PSV

Eindhoven, added the second after rounding the Bulgarian goalkeeper in the 62nd minute.

The match was played in desperately slippery conditions on a waterlogged pitch. Poland has nine points from five games.

Poland coach Janusz Wojcik said after the win, "We have now boosted our chances of advancing to the

European championships, despite losing heavily against England and Sweden."

Bulgaria has four points from five matches and stays second from bottom in group five.

Poland travels to Luxembourg for its next group match while Bulgaria plays England.



Ulf Kirsten (l) and Marco Bode (m) celebrating with German captain Oliver Bierhoff, after scoring a hat-trick against Moldova.

GREECE LIGHTNING

Nikos Machlas and Dimitris Mavrogenidis both scored in the final four minutes, rallying Greece to a 2-1 victory over Georgia, enabling it to keep pace with Norway in Group 2 of the European Championship qualifying.

Georgia dominated but failed to

convert numerous scoring opportunities in the first half.

The victory put Greece and nine points, good enough for second place but seven points behind Norway, which beat Albania 2-1.

Newcastle striker Temur Ketsbaia put Georgia ahead 11 minutes into the second half.

He collected a pass from Levan Kobiasvili on the left, dribbled through the Greek defense and fired from 15 yards out past goalkeeper Ilias Atmatzidis.

Mavrogenidis equalized for Greece in the 86th minute when his shot from just bounced off a Georgian player and into the net.

Machlas took advantage of a mistake by the Georgian goalkeeper heading in the winner in the last minute from a lob from Andreas Niniadis, silencing the crowd of 20,000 at the Boris Paichadze Stadium in

Georgia now has four

points in Group 2, ahead of only Albania in the group.

Azerbaijan trashed Liechtenstein 4-0 in their Euro 2000 group seven qualifier to earn its first points in this qualifying campaign.

Azerbaijan, which had scored just once in its previous five qualifiers, a 2-1 defeat in Liechtenstein, exploded as four different players scored against fellow group-seven minnows.

Liechtenstein have now have up 26 goals in six matches dropping to last place.

Serhiy Popov and Serhiy Rebrov both scored in the space of five minutes late in the first half, as the Ukraine overwhelmed Andorra 4-0 to stay at the top of Group 4 in their Euro 2000 qualifying group.

The victory put Ukraine on 14 points. It was Andorra's sixth loss in as many games.

The Ukrainians attacked incessantly from the start but had problems creating chances against the Andorran defence.

Popov's goal in the 36th and Rebrov's in the 41st minute, got Ukraine started as Yuriy Dmytrulin resumed the scoring 14 minutes into the second half.

Dmytrulin headed in a ball after it rebounded off Andorran goalkeeper Jesus Luis Alvarez.

Andriy Husin clinched the victory for Ukraine in injury time.

Andorra pulled all of its players into its own half failing to manage a single shot on goal.

Zlatko Zahovic scored a pair of first half goals to give Slovenia a key 2-1 victory over Latvia in their European championship group two qualifying match.

The win moves Slovenia past the Latvians into second place in the group, with eight points from five games. Latvia also have eight points from six games but they trail on goal difference.

Southampton's Marian Pahars ended the scoring drought for Latvia that stretched back to October, when he wrapped a free kick around the Slovenian wall and into the top corner in the 18th minute.

But Zahovic levelled in the 27th minute, and then notched the winner in the 43rd as he powered a penalty into the back of the net after he was pulled down in the box.

Latvia now face a must-win away game against Greece on Wednesday while Slovenia visit winless Albania where they must win if they stand any chance of qualifying for Euro 2000 to be jointly held by Holland and Belgium.



Nikos Machlas scored in his country's 2-1 win over Georgia.

EUROPE

ROMANIA END 63 YEAR HOODOO

Thousands of people have gathered in central Bucharest to toast Gheorghe Hagi for his role in Romania's first victory against Hungary in 63 years, the home side winning 2-0.

"Hagi, Hagi" and "Hagi, the King" shouted some 8,000 young people in the capital's central square, waving national flags and cars driving through the city from the stadium blew their horns.

Hagi's outstanding performance came in the first half of the European group seven qualifier match when he inspired his team mates to a 2-0 victory.



Hagi feels satisfied after helping Romania beat Hungary for the first time in 63 years.

Later, he had to be substituted after injuring his shoulder but he still exerted an influence from the bench in the second half.

"He might have suffered a right shoulder dislocation," national coach Victor Piturca said at the end of the game.

Hagi, 34, who retired from the national team after last year's World Cup finals in France, agreed to return for this match against neighboring Hungary.

"This was a great victory. As we wished, we made history," Hagi told Radio Bucharest.

"For me it is enough," he said confirming his decision to quit the national team after 17 years as captain.

He led Romania during the U.S. World Cup finals when they reached the quarterfinals, their best ever performance of the country's national team.

Romania's win came through goals by Valencia's striker Adrian Ilie and Cologne midfielder Dorinel Munteanu.

Ilie scored from a free kick in the second minute and then set up a perfect cross from the right for Munteanu who had no problems scoring from four meters after 15 minutes.

Spain were on cloud nine for the second time in three games as a hat-trick from Luis Enrique set them on their way to a 9-0 win over San Marino in their European Championship group six qualifier.

Jose Antonio Camacho's team followed up their 9-0 demolition of Austria and 6-0 stroll in San Marino to score 24 goals in their last three competitive games and take back top spot in their group.

A Fernando Hierro penalty on eight minutes set Spain on their way and they were 4-0 up by halftime. Luis Enrique sliding in the second and Joseba Etxeberria scoring two more.

Luis Enrique completed his hat-trick with two in two minutes after Raul Gonzalez had made it five and Spain wrapped things up with a Mirco Gennari own goal and a long range strike from Gazka Mendietia.

The only threat to Spain came eight minutes into the second half when a floodlight failure caused a five minute hold-up.

Substitute winger Nuno Capucho scored a 62nd minute goal against Slovakia, giving Portugal a 1-0 win, keeping them at the top of group seven in their European championship qualifier.

Luis Figo, playing at the Alvalade stadium for the first time since he transferred from Sporting Lisbon to Barcelona in 1995, raced clear on the left and crossed the ball to Capucho, who lobbed it past goalkeeper Miroslav Konig.

Capucho, who plays for league champions Porto, scored just a minute after going onto the pitch as a substitute.

After six games, Portugal lead the group with 15 points, followed by Romania who have 14 points after beating Hungary 2-0 earlier.

Portugal played on the offensive throughout the match, but Konig provided tough resistance against shots by Figo and fellow midfielder Rui Costa.

"Slovakia were well prepared and disciplined," Portuguese coach Humberto Coelho said.

"It was a difficult match, but only a very good team like ourselves were capable of beating them, and we did."

FRANCE LOSE IN PARIS

World champions France crashed to their first home defeat in two years and first since 1993 in official competition when they lost 3-2 to Russia in their Euro 2000 group four qualifier.

The defeat threatens France's chances of reaching the finals after they dropped to third in their group, three points behind Ukraine and one adrift of Iceland, bringing back the painful memory of November 1993.

France lost to England in a friendly tournament in June 1997 but their last home loss in official competition came when Bulgaria beat them 2-1 at the Parc des Princes to dash their hopes of reaching the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Russia, who scored a brilliant winner through Celta Vigo midfielder Valery Karpin five minutes from time, were the last team to beat France anywhere, 1-0 in a World Cup warm-up in Moscow 14 months ago.

"This is the worst thing that could have happened. What worries me is that Iceland are now ahead of us," France coach Roger Lemerre said.

France should pick up three points away to Andorra on Wednesday, but they face a crunch trip to Ukraine in September.

"In this kind of game you must at least take one point. It was a failure of our organization. There were too many individual mistakes and the Russians were too stubborn and never gave up," Lemerre added.

Russia's coach Oleg Romansev said, "Both teams had the chance to win the match but I thought we deserved it."

Karpin stunned the near capacity 78,000 crowd when he shot home after substitute Ilya Tsymbalar left two men stranded out on the left wing with a deft touch to run between them and cross low across the front of Fabien Barthez's goal.

Ten minutes earlier, 23-year-old Alexander Panov struck a brilliant equalizer for the Russians, who had trailed 2-1 since the 54th minute.

Running on to a diagonal ball from midfield out to the right, the Zenit St Petersburg striker blasted the ball home between Barthez and the near post for his second goal.

Panov, who scored twice in his club's victory in the Russian Cup final last week, scored his first goal for Russia in his fourth international when he gave them the lead five minutes before the interval.

Midfielder Yegor Titov ran onto a well placed ball behind left back Vincent Candela.

When Titov crossed square the ball hit Candela's arm, stranding Barthez, and Panov slid in to score.

But the French, who had beaten the Russians 3-2



Emmanuel Petit scored against Russia but France still went down 3-2 at home.

when the two sides met in an earlier qualifier in Moscow in October, hit back with two goals in six minutes early in the second half.

Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit scored with a deflected free kick in the 48th minute.

Six minutes later, Wilfried, top scorer in the French first division for new champions Girondins Bordeaux, picked up the ball inside his own half and raced for goal, leaving two men in his wake, shooting past goalkeeper Alexander Filimonov.

Filimonov kept the Russians in the game with some fine saves during heavy French pressure midway through each half and it proved vital as his team mates delivered at the other end.

EURO 2000 TABLES

GROUP ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
Switzerland	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Wales	2	2	0	3	5	11	6
Denmark	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Belarus	5	0	2	3	3	6	2

GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	7	5	1	1	14	8	16
Greece	6	2	3	1	7	5	9
Slovenia	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Latvia	6	2	2	2	5	4	8
Georgia	7	1	1	5	4	17	4
Albania	5	0	3	2	3	5	3

GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	5	4	0	1	14	3	12

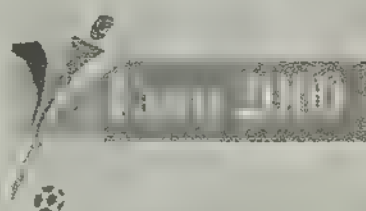
Turkey	5	4	0	1	11	5	12
Finland	5	2	0	3	8	10	6
Northern Ireland	5	1	2	2	3	8	5
Moldova	6	0	2	4	6	16	2

GROUP FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	6	4	2	0	12	3	14
Iceland	6	3	3	0	7	2	12
France	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
Russia	6	3	0	3	16	10	9
Armenia	6	1	1	4	3	10	4
Andorra	6	0	0	6	2	19	0

GROUP FIVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	5	4	1	0	6	1	13
Poland	5	3	0	2	9	4	9
England	5	2	2	1	7	3	8
Bulgaria	5	1	1	3	2	6	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	0	10	0



GROUP SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	5	4	0	1	28	4	12
Austria	5	3	1	1	15	11	10
Cyprus	5	3	0	2	8	8	9
Israel	4	2	1	1	10	3	7
San Marino	7	0	0	7	1	36	0

GROUP SEVEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	6	5	0	1	19	2	15
Romania	6	4	2	0	12	1	14

Hungary	6	2	2	2	11	6	8
Slovakia	6	2	2	2	7	4	8
Azerbaijan	6	1	0	5	5	17	3
Liechtenstein	6	1	0	5	2	26	3

GROUP EIGHT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Macedonia	4	2	1	1	9	5	7
Croatia	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Rep of Ireland	3	2	0	1	7	1	6
Yugoslavia	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Malta	5	0	0	5	2	18	0

GROUP NINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Republic	6	6	0	0	14	3	18
Scotland	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Estonia	6	2	1	3	11	11	7
Bosnia-Herzegovina	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Lithuania	6	1	2	3	5	8	5
Faroe Islands	6	0	2	4	2	10	2

UK

KINNEAR REPLACED AS MANAGER

Long standing Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear has been replaced as the manager of the club by ex-Norway boss Egil Olsen.

The removal of Kinnear stunned players and friends who believe he had been pushed into accepting an unspecified advisory role because of his recent heart problems.

But Wimbledon co-owner Sam Hammam denied this, insisting he would never have forced his friend out of office after a decade of service, adding that Kinnear asked to quit first.

Olsen's first act was to criticise the 7.5million pound purchase by Kinnear of John Hartson from West Ham.

"That was far too much to pay for a player like Hartson. Obviously Wimbledon will have to adjust now and my first job will be to sort out the playing style", said new coach, Olsen.

"I have watched Wimbledon and they have been very poor in the last part of the season.

"My first job is to assess all the playing staff before deciding which players I need to bring in."



Joe Kinnear, Wimbledon manager, has more heart problems after being replaced by Olsen.

Hammam was quick to defuse the situation saying, "Joe said he wanted something bigger. At first I was devastated, but then I thought long and hard and decided he deserved his chance."

But Kinnear claimed he was itching to get back into the premiership firing line, which made claims that he had asked to

step down from the Wimbledon job more surprising.

Kinnear said, "It would have been easy to walk away, but the owners were desperate for me to stay on to steer the ship."

"They know I have the expertise to keep this club in the big time and can pass that on."

"I'm still relatively young and after so many years at Wimbledon, I have finally had a chance to take stock and I have decided that the time is also right for me to test myself elsewhere. I will leave Wimbledon when the time is right and only when the club is right."

"I have also decided that the club will have the best chance of survival in the premiership next season if I stay on to oversee Olsen's introduction."

Wimbledon's players were mystified and upset by the news.

England U21 star Jason Euell stated, "Everyone here is shocked by what has happened, and it's very hard to understand. There are a lot of players at this club that owe their careers to his help."

PETIT TO STAY PUT

France's World Cup winning midfielder, Emmanuel Petit has announced that he is committed to his English club Arsenal despite a season blighted by suspension and controversy.

Petit was a member of Arsenal's double winning side in 1997/98 and went on to star in France's successful World Cup campaign.

But his club side failed to win a trophy this season as Manchester United completed the treble of European Cup, English Premiership and FA Cup while cross town rivals, Tottenham won the League Cup.

Petit missed six matches through suspension and at one point claimed French players were victims of a witch hunt as he threatened to quit England.

But Petit said, "At the time I had a huge tantrum. Afterwards I took things more philosophically."

"When I look at the Highbury public that adore me, I can imagine nothing else. You could offer me a salary three times higher and it would change nothing."

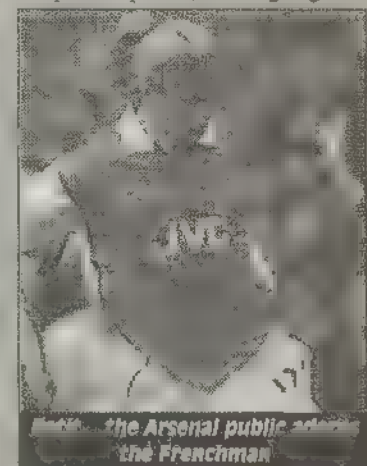
Arsenal is after Juventus defender Gianluca Pessotto and Cagliari's highly-rated striker, Roberto Muzzi.

The Arsenal delegation has been in Turin, according to the Gazzetta dello Sport, with

around seven million pounds to spend on the skilful Juventus wingback.

Pessotto, who turns 29 in August, joined Juventus from Torino in 1995.

He was in the team that beat Ajax Amsterdam on penalties in the 1996 European Cup final, before going on to



the Arsenal public adore the Frenchman

reach the next two Champions League finals and win the Italian league in 1997 and 1998.

However, a similar figure is also reportedly available from Arsenal's coffers for Muzzi, previously linked with a move to Juventus.

PLATT TO HELP OLD TIME PAL

David Platt is considering an offer to come out of retirement to team up with his old pal, Graham Taylor at newly-promoted Watford.

The former England star, still only 32, has been contemplating a return to football after only a year out of the game, as his move into coaching has yet to take off.

After a short spell in charge of Sampdoria, Platt was forced out by stringent Italian regulations and has since spent much of his time watching his racehorses in action.

But he now feels he hung up his boots too early at Arsenal and the challenge of helping Taylor establish Watford in the premiership may prove irresistible.

A Watford official said, "Platt and Taylor have a lot of admiration for each other after working together at England and Aston Villa."

"David is only 32 and still very fit, and after a year out of the game, he feels he may have retired a little too early."

"A return to playing for one more year appeals to him and the fact that he can help Watford build a side to stay in the premiership excites him."

Taylor, who first put Platt on the road to stardom by buying him for Villa, has vowed he will not splash out millions in the inflated transfer market for players who will have no loyalty to the club.

And he stressed that if the club don't like his safety-first policy, they can find a new manager.

"We have guaranteed ourselves over the next three seasons around 12million pounds, even if we were to be relegated straight away", said Taylor.

"But if you then throw that at players who walk away when things go wrong and don't have a feeling for what Watford Football Club is all about, you will waste that money."

"I don't even like wasting 20,000 pounds. I treat it as if it's my own money."

"Even if somebody gave me 50million pounds, players wouldn't come to this club. They'd go to the big clubs."

Taylor insisted: "I have got to be strong and say to players, 'That's your salary and this is the opportunity we can give you.'"

"People who come to Watford must want to progress and help their careers."

"But if it does go wrong, as it can, I don't want people knocking on my door and asking to leave. I don't want those people around me."

"So you've got to keep bringing the youngsters through."

"Some of that money has to be spent on the proper development of our players."

"If the directors don't like it then they can find another manager."

Platt, who has already helped coach Watford's youth team, appeals to Taylor because he will be motivated not by the money but, by a desire to help the club and pick up tips for his future coaching career.



David Platt, willing to come out of retirement to help a mate.



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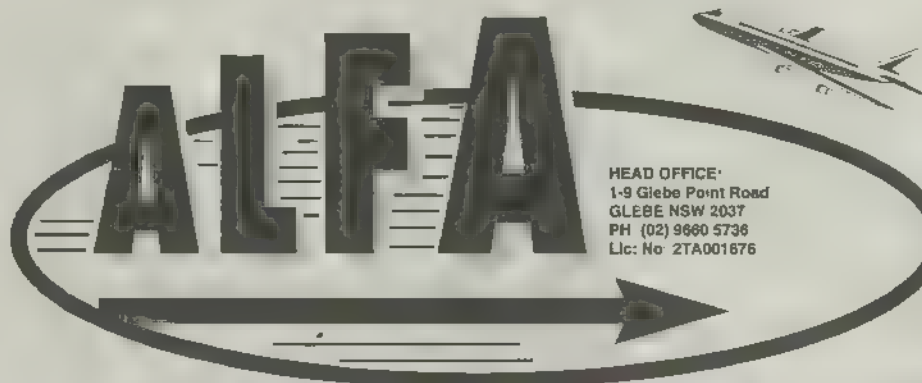
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Soccer Weekly

By Soccer Spice

Who would have predicted at the beginning of the season that Manchester United would be crowned premiers of the English Premier league, FA Cup victors as well as European champions?

In the space of three weeks, United completed a historic treble, unprecedented in English football.

The way in which they accomplished this feat can only be described as unbelievable.

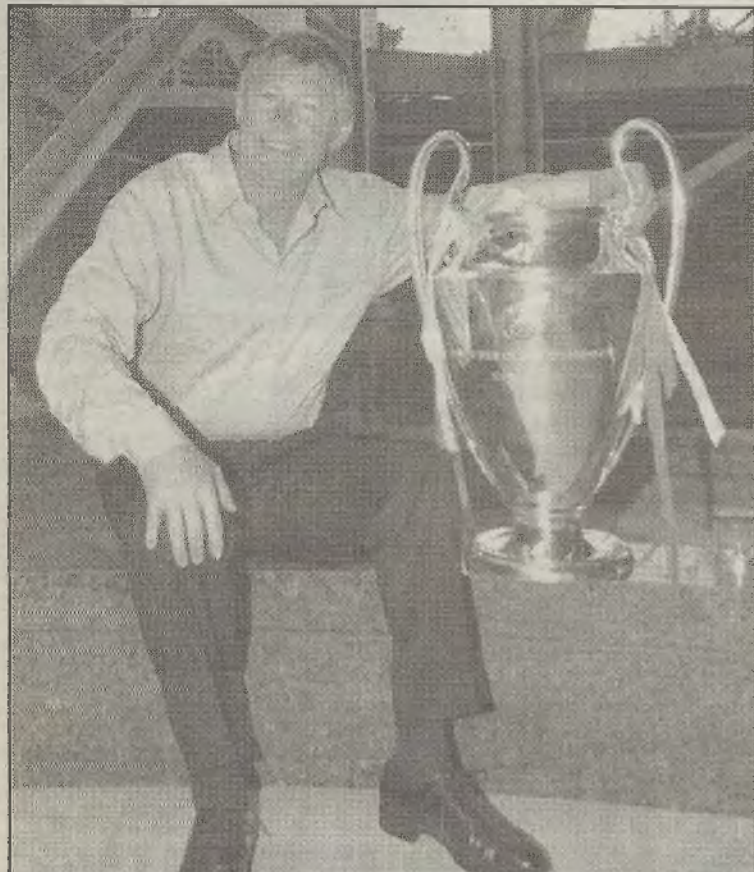
The European Champions league final was a superb finale to an extraordinary season.

Just minutes away from defeat, United proved once and for all that it's not over 'till the fat lady sings, or in this case the referee.

Bayern Munich thought they had it sealed and so did most other people, but it takes only a second for a ball to cross the line and United substitute Teddy Sheringham was the one to reinforce this.

Sheringham's goal restored hope in the United camp.

GLORY GLORY MAN. UNITED



Alex Ferguson... He has turned United into an empire and now the Scot is being rewarded with trophies, as seen here with the European Cup.

The belief that the reds could claim victory was resurrected. Not that it ever totally diminished, it merely wavered due to the fact that injury time had approached.

As long as the referee kept his whistle in his back pocket, the dream of a magical and miraculous finish still existed.

Most times, our prayers for victory on behalf of 'our' team, go unanswered but this time, United supporters were treated to a highly dramatic and ecstatic end to a match which looked to be over.

Johnny Warren said prior to kick-off that, it was Manchester United's 'destiny' to win all three titles and Solskjaer's 93rd minute goal proved just that.

It was a stunning victory that overwhelmed United supporters worldwide with joy and sent them into a frenzy.

Munich supporters on the other hand, were sent into a state of utter shock and who could blame them?

To be in the lead throughout the entire match, to hit the woodwork on two occasions and to have victory stolen from within their grasp so cruelly with only minutes to go, was extremely heartbreaking.

One can only imagine though, how distraught the players must have been.

The tears from Kuffour flowing freely. You just cannot help but empathise with them.

All in all, it's been a spectacular season for the red devils. They defeated Italian giants Juventus in Turin, coming back remarkably from a 2-0 deficit to claim a 3-2 victory and qualify for the European Champions League final.

In addition, they had a one point win over Arsenal in the Premier League, which was not wrapped up until the final game of the season at Old Trafford.

The 2-1 win over Tottenham, courtesy of a stunning goal from Spice boy Beckham and one from Andy Cole, ensured United's fifth premiership in seven seasons.

High drama and then ecstasy, the perfect final act for the 'theatre of dreams' in the 1998/99 season.

The achievements of Manchester United this season, under the watchful eye of manager Alex Ferguson have seen him emulate the efforts of legendary

United manager Sir Matt Busby who led Man United to their only other European Championship in 1968.

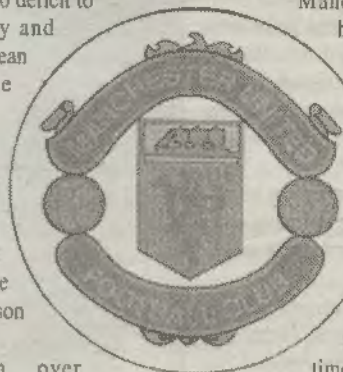
So, with a great manager and talented players, including player of the year Dwight Yorke, amongst their ranks, Manchester United seem to have found the ingredients for success.

The might of the red devils is unbelievable and what a remarkable farewell this season has been for United's amazing 'keeper, 'The great Dane', Peter Schmeichel, ending his

time at Old Trafford as captain of a treble winning side. He will definitely be missed.

It's been a dream season for the United side from the industrial town of Manchester, their efforts have been truly inspirational.

Hopefully the success story will continue as we sit back and spectate in our seats in the 'theatre of dreams' and chant "Glory, glory Man United". What a season. What a team.



FROM BENCH WARMER TO A HERO

Teddy Sheringham has travelled a long way in life from the gritty rough and tumble of Millwall's old Den.

Happily for him, Manchester United and England, he hasn't left it too far out of reach.

Sheringham has rejoined the England squad, eight months after his last England appearance, revealing the hard and determined force behind the most amazing individual comeback of the season.

It was the beam of steel he leaned upon during the dark winter months on the sidelines or the treatment table, long before the Championship, Wembley and

Barcelona.

"In this game you get built up and then you get knocked down. It's all about how you respond.

"You've either got the character to take the knocks and bounce back or you haven't.

"If you haven't, you have to learn very quickly to get it, because it's a man's game out there.

"When things aren't going right, there is a lot of stick flying about. Basically, you just have to deal with it."

The last time Sheringham played for his country was as a substitute last September against Sweden, when he almost turned around the defeat that started the rot for now sacked England manager, Glenn Hoddie.

Another appearance will be the latest reward for seeing things through when at one time it appeared he may become just a small part in Old Trafford's assault on the honours he craved so much.

Yet, as tough as his spirit is, there were still times when, along with his fears for his future at United, he believed his England career was over.

Sheringham said: "There was a period in the season when I thought England might not come back for me.

"You think that when a new manager comes in, he'll be looking for new faces. There was talk for a couple of days that I'd be called up.

"I was watching Teletext all day

and I was beginning to think the call wasn't coming after all.

"I knew it wouldn't be an easy situation for the manager to name me if I wasn't playing.

"Hopefully, now I'm here, I'll get a chance to do something about that. That is how things have changed around for me."

Rarely do they change as dramatically as for Sheringham, who, at 34, was running out of time to claim the missing medals for which he quit Tottenham.

The cruel taunts of the terraces have been silenced by his astonishing role in United's treble triumphs.

But he confessed: "There have been low points. At times I've been unhappy about being taken off or not starting in matches.

"It was worst when I wasn't in the 16 for the Cup semi-final against Arsenal.

"I wasn't in the 16 at Wimbledon either. I was very low then. I'd be lying if I said I hadn't thought about my future.

"When you're sitting in the stands watching you're not a happy man.

"I've only ever asked to play a part. I've still got faith in my ability and I want to show it. So I'm a contented man right now.

"When we came back to Manchester with the European Cup and saw all the fans in the street, it was a touching moment, one that will live with us for all of our lives.

"Yet it was a surprise to me when I got the nod to go on in the FA Cup final to replace Roy Keane.

"I was the only United player who didn't warm up beforehand. I think I gave the manager a look like,



Teddy Sheringham... has been called up to the England squad after eight months out.

"what, me?"

"But I couldn't get my boots on quickly enough.

And look what happened to the forgotten man of English football when he did enter Wembley Stadium, scoring a goal and setting up the winner as well as in Barcelona, scoring to give United the equaliser in injury time against Bayern Munich in the European Cup final.



Sheringham... the driving force behind United's treble.

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UK NEWS IN BRIEF

Manchester United goalkeeper Mark Bosnich made it to his wedding on Friday, despite being arrested by police on suspicion of robbing a press photographer outside a lap dancing club.

The groom arrived for the service at the exclusive Coombe Abbey Hotel near Coventry, accompanied by fellow United star and best man Dwight Yorke, almost an hour early for the service, which was put back until 3pm.

Bosnich, who was dressed in a white shirt, tie and colourful gold and black waistcoat, looked relaxed as he moved through the throng of reporters to the hotel lobby, without commenting.

Hours earlier the player had faced police questioning over allegations that he assaulted and robbed photographer Jamie Jones outside Birmingham's Legs Eleven nightclub following a night out on Thursday.

Jones refused to comment but he was understood to have been working for a national newspaper at the time of the incident.

The 27-year-old footballer, who was due to marry former model Sarah Jarrett, was arrested at his home in Little Aston at 7am and was later released on police bail, three and a half hours later.

Around 70 guests attended the ceremony, including a number of Manchester United players, with the reception held at the Abbey's grounds.

John Oxley, general manager of Coombe Abbey Hotel, said he had spoken to the bride-to-be who had not mentioned the events of Thursday night.

"I have had contact with the groom only briefly, but I spoke to Sarah and she appeared perfectly happy, she was looking forward to her big day," he said.

"I don't think the events of last night will affect the couple and plans for the ceremony have not been altered in any way."

A West Midlands police spokesman said Bosnich had been bailed to re-appear at Birmingham's Steelhouse Lane police station on July 21.

Manchester United has ruled out any chance of taking part in a multi-team World Club Championship next season.

United chairman Martin Edwards said it was unlikely any English clubs would want to be part of the proposed championship in Brazil.

The tournament would involve top club sides from around the world, and would be played like a mini World Cup, but Edwards said, "I only know what I have heard about the competition from the media and we haven't had any official approach."

"But I think if you were talking about taking three weeks out of the season, that would almost be an impossibility for any English club."

"We are already playing 38 league games and potentially 17 games in the Champions' League, so I think it will be a non-starter, certainly while we have



Mark Bosnich finally made it to his wedding to marry former model, Sarah Jarrett.

a 20-club league."

Edwards did, however, confirm that United would take part in both the one-off World Club Championship against the champions of South America and the European Super Cup, another one-off game against the winners of the European Cup Winners' Cup, next season.

Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli days of playing were over.

"I'm not going to play any more," he said. "From now on, I'm only going to coach."

Vialli's announcement was no bombshell. He vowed last month to keep fit but played only in emergencies, saying Chelsea "needs a good manager more than it needs a 35-year-old striker."

In November, he said he enjoyed coaching so much that he was happy to let others do most of the playing, and that he thought that he was no longer good enough to compete at the top level.

Vialli who played 59 games for Chelsea, took on his Chelsea managerial duties when Ruud Gullit was sacked in February 1998.

Asked when he would return to Italy, Vialli told Corriere: "My contract expires in June 2001. If they don't sack me first I'll honour it."

He told Corriere he hoped his days as player would leave "a good memory."

"I believe people understand that behind my 'originalities', let's put it that way, lay sincerity, sensitivity and humanity."

Sunderland manager Peter Reid was appointed part-time coach of the England under-21 side, replacing full-time boss, Peter Taylor.

Former England international Reid led Sunderland back to the Premier League as first division champions with a record points tally at the end of the season just completed.

His appointment leaves both national teams coached by men with strong links to northeast clubs. Senior manager Kevin Keegan is a former Newcastle United boss.

Taylor, appointed by former England manager Glenn Hoddle, announced in March he was stepping down reluctantly after three highly successful years in the under-21 job.

England beat Sweden 3-0 in their under-21 Euro qualifier leading the group with five wins from five games.

SCOTLAND SUFFER AN EMBARRASSING DRAW

Scottish football suffered another embarrassment as a last-minute headed goal from Hans Hansen secured a point for the Faroe Islands, and put a huge dent in Scotland's qualifying hopes.

The Scots had taken the lead six minutes from the break, when Allan Johnston capitalised on a goalkeeping error to slam the ball home, for his first goal on his fifth international appearance.

However, a respectable first-half display was tarnished when Matt Elliott was dismissed right on the half-time whistle, for apparently striking Todi Jonsson, although there was some doubt about how the contact had been made.

But Craig Brown had little sympathy for his defender, saying, "There is no explanation for such behaviour."

"This was the main reason why we did not win the match. Until the incident I felt we were in control."

Scotland, however, should have finished the game off by half time.

Elliott went close with a header and then Billy Dodds saw his effort turned away by the Faroese keeper.

Brown sent on Colin Cameron for Ian Durrant at the start of the second half, but the Faroese almost equalised in the 50th minute when Todi Jonsson skipped away from Boyd, only for Sullivan to tip the ball away.

The visitors were looking comfortable on a difficult surface and Callum Davidson almost made the game safe when Dodds cut the ball back, but Mikkelsen in the home goal again came to the rescue.

The Scots seemed to have done enough to hold on for the three points, but in the last minute, Hansen rose to



Scottish manager, Craig Brown.

head home from a corner, sparking unbridled scenes of joy, and leaving Craig Brown's Euro 2000 dreams in tatters.

Indeed, Allan Simonsen's could have won it in injury time, but the draw was scant consolation for the Scottish camp.

"This means we now cannot win the group, so our aim is to go for second place. We cannot even be sure of that but we hope to get a point or maybe a victory against the Czechs in Prague. But it is going to be very difficult," said Brown.

IRELAND'S FUTURE HANGS IN THE BALANCE

Ireland's soccer chiefs were optimistic that UEFA would not use the canceled European Championship qualifier against Yugoslavia as a reason to kick it out of the tournament.

The Irish government's decision to effectively call off the game by withholding visas for the Yugoslavs appears to have been vindicated by suggestions that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic had intended using the game as a huge propaganda exercise for his Balkans regime.

A European Union representative from Finland, who this week attended top-level talks in Belgrade when

a peace formula was produced for the Kosovo crisis, revealed that Milosevic made specific mention of the Ireland v Yugoslavia match, originally due to take place at Lansdowne Road on Saturday.

Maarti Ahtisaari apparently said it was one of only three issues raised by the Yugoslav president outside discussions over the NATO package.

On Friday the Football Association of Ireland's (FAI) chief executive Bernard O'Byrne said, "This seems to underline our point to UEFA when we argued that they should order the game to be postponed."

"Our main concern was that the Yugoslav government would use the game as a big propaganda opportunity. We wanted to avoid that because it would go against everything that the FAI and UEFA are all about, which is football."

Although the FAI were ready to let their team fulfil the controversial fixture "under

extreme protest" the matter was taken out of their hands when the Irish government decided at the 11th hour not to issue the Yugoslav team with entry visas to travel to Dublin.

Even so, UEFA have still been indicating they could deliver major sanctions against the Irish team and the

FAI, including expulsion from Euro 2000, the deduction of three points or an order to replay the game at a neutral venue.

Not surprisingly, the FAI remain fiercely opposed to any of those suggestions and O'Byrne said, "I had a conversation with Gerard Aigner (UEFA's general secretary) last night and while I would hesitate to say they have changed their minds, it did seem they are less bullish about the whole affair."

"Perhaps a bit of time has allowed them to cool down a bit and maybe they are now seeing the validity of our arguments."

Now the FAI, if the Kosovo peace formula works, want to sit down with their Yugoslav counterparts and rearrange the match to take place in Dublin, possibly in early August.

They will fight any suggestion that it should take place in a neutral country.

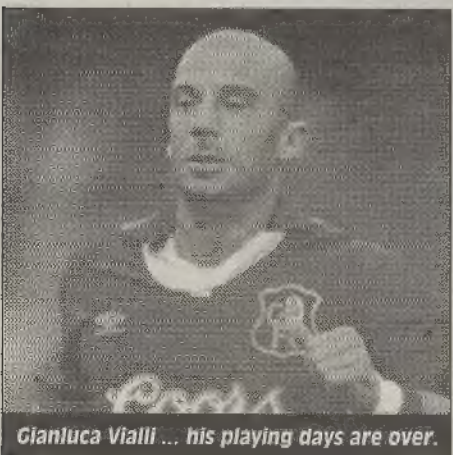
Already five matches have been postponed in the group eight because of the Kosovo crisis and all fixtures have to be completed by November.

But in August, Yugoslavia are also due to be at home to neighbouring Croatia in yet another potentially explosive encounter.

The Yugoslavs, who were kicked out of the 1992 European Championships over earlier turmoil in the Balkans, have so far played only one game in Belgrade of the current competition, with a 1-0 win over Ireland in November.

Since the outbreak of the Kosovo troubles, Yugoslavia have been given permission by UEFA to play 'home' qualifiers in a neutral country as all football ceased in Yugoslavia in March.

They are due to meet Malta in their next qualifier on Wednesday in the Greek city of Thessaloniki and the Maltese FA have so far raised no objection to the game going ahead there.



Gianluca Vialli ... his playing days are over.

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TIRED ENGLAND HELD AT HOME BY SWEDEN

In a season where late goals have been decisive, Kevin Keegan's beginner's luck deserted him as Sweden held England to a 0-0 draw at Wembley.

Teddy Sheringham could not perform his spectacular late show as injuries rendered his introduction impossible. The experts bemoaned Keegan for not picking Jimmy Glass.

But the man who really made victory impossible for England was the same player who earned them victory against Poland.

Paul Scholes, dismissed for a second bookable offence in the 50th minute, became the first ever England international to be sent off at Wembley, and now the lottery of the play-offs beckon for England.



Beckham grabs at his ankle after a heavy tackle which forced him out of the game.

KEEGAN: WERE DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Kevin Keegan put on a brave face after England's disappointing 0-0 draw against Sweden and insisted, "We are down but we are not out."

Keegan was clearly disappointed with England's failure to beat a resilient Swedish side, ending his side's chance of winning the qualifying group outright. England now face the prospect of a play-off to qualify for next year's European Championships.

Keegan said after the game, "To be fair, we didn't play well in the first half. I was frustrated and I felt they were too."

"At half-time we talked about passing it better and causing more problems. But we never had a chance to do that because of Paul Scholes' sending off."

"Paul Scholes is a smashing player, very tenacious but I have no arguments. I'm disappointed but I am not annoyed with him."

"As he had already been booked I thought the referee might have been lenient."

"But that's his game, he's tenacious and in the rain as



Kevin Keegan... the honeymoon is over and now the real job begins.

The red card completed a bizarre end to the season for Scholes, who scored in the FA Cup Final but missed the European Cup Final through suspension.

It also provided Keegan with his first hiccup as England boss. The performance on Wednesday in Bulgaria now takes on increased importance.

Sweden, many of whose players admitted before the game that they would be delighted with the draw, offered the most obstinate resistance.

Sweden could have opened the scoring when Fredrik Ljungberg's second-half 25-yard free-kick was tipped onto the crossbar by his Arsenal colleague, David Seaman.

England could not offer anything like Sweden's invention, and a bad situation became terrible when David Beckham became the third player to hobble off injured.

The only creative spark in the red shirt is doubtful for Wednesday's game, as well as Graeme Le Saux with a virus and Martin Keown with a hamstring injury.

Despite the hosts' domination of possession, they were unable to carve out any clear-cut opportunities, unlike their impressively well-drilled opponents, who not only defended stoutly but attacked intelligently and contained England admirably.

All is not lost for England's push for Euro 2000, but they will have to improve if they hope to qualify. At the moment, boisterous trophy engravers is a long way away.

the surface got greasier the timing had to be right.

"He's disappointed because it made the task more difficult for the rest of the lads."

"Nobody likes to be sent off at Wembley. But with the new rules now he won't be the last."

"You can't make two mistakes like that. To be fair, they were both bookable offences. We know the rules and we know what happens if we break them."

"The one thing we take out of this game is character because we had to hold on."

"We just couldn't get our game going and it didn't turn out how I would have liked."

"David Beckham is definitely out of the game at Bulgaria on Wednesday, as is Martin Keown."

"That's the downside of having games so close. It's great because we can get all the players together, but injuries are a problem."

"We've taken a bit of a knock today; we are down but not out."

"It looks like we will have to do it the hard way through the play-offs. I'd like to have a day off tomorrow and look at what we've got. Let's not start jumping off the ship and committing suicide."

Skipper Alan Shearer, who was celebrating his 50th international cap, had an afternoon of frustration against a very resilient Swedish rearguard.

Shearer said, "It was very disappointing."

"We thought we could have won the game and in the first five minutes we looked capable of winning, but we seemed to have some heavy legs out there. We won't use that as an excuse, but the spark wasn't there."

"It was always going to be uphill when we had a man sent off."

Sweden goalkeeper Magnus Hedman added, "I didn't have anything to do during the game. We knew England would start very brightly, especially the first 15-20 in each half but we just stood back and kept it tight."

"We are not definitely there at the moment and in football you take nothing for granted. One more win will do that."

The toll of a long season finally caught up with their players, every kick became an effort, every run a chore. This was a tired England team, not a fluent one.

Eight of Sweden's starting line-up have played league football in Britain, so it was little surprise that the game began in the blood and thunder style typical of the English game.

Both teams played as though they had a plane to catch, even though there's some time before the all-important flight to Holland next summer takes off.

If ever there were any doubts about the importance of this game, they were dispelled in the game's breathtaking opening period.

Swedish midfielder Hakan Mild bore the brunt of the early passion, as he received a nasty gash from an over-enthusiastic Paul Scholes challenge.

As though reinforcing the fact that there was no room for Mildness on the pitch, Mild was stretchered off in the second minute and replaced by Sheffield Wednesday's Niclas Alexandersson. Scholes' challenge set the tone.

Sherwood and Batty were also sliding in perilously late, while Beckham was chopped down when in a good position on the right.

When Scholes cut down Schwarz on the half-hour mark his booking was deserved, though the repercussions were not to be felt until later.

For all the effort, there were few scoring chances. Kevin Keegan's side dominated possession, though Sweden came closest in the twelfth minute when Kennet Andersson's knock-down was hacked away by David Beckham.

Andersson was proving a handful, another winning aerial challenge offered Fredrick Ljungberg a shooting chance, but he blasted it over the bar.

Alan Shearer was proving just as effective at the other end. His downward header almost released Andy Cole, but the Manchester United forward took his eye off the ball at the vital moment.

His disappointing first half continued when he was needlessly booked for not retreating before a free-kick.



Scholes(r) is given his marching orders by the referee.



David Beckham is fouled by Johan Mjalby(r) as Stefan Schwarz(l) watches on.

Sweden exerted more pressure and carved out the best chance of the game when Ljungberg's wonderful cross was headed wide from seven yards by Henrik Larsson.

It was a great opportunity, as was the opening that the busy Ljungberg created for Johan Mjalby.

The Celtic hardman's shot from four yards was courageously blocked by Phil Neville.

Sweden were ruing the misses even more when an unmarked Kennet Andersson headed over from a corner.

The relief turned to worry when Kevin Keegan's Mr. Reliable, Martin Keown, limped off in the 35th minute with a hamstring injury, another absentee for the Bulgaria game.

Rio Ferdinand came on in place of Keown and, ten minutes later, watched Alan Shearer smack a rising shot just over the bar from the edge of the area.

It was England's best opportunity of the game, and as Kevin Keegan walked off, he will be as conscious as anyone that Sweden's goalkeeper Magnus Hedman did not have to make one single save.

The honeymoon is now over and the real job begins.

England: Seaman, Neville, Le Saux, Sherwood, Keown, Campbell, Beckham, Batty, Shearer, Cole, Scholes. **Subs:** Gray, Ferdinand, Redknapp, Parlour, Sheringham, Fowler, Walker.

Sweden: Hedman, Nilsson, P. Andersson, Bjorklund, Kaarmark, Schwarz, Mild, Mjalby, Ljungberg, Larsson, K. Andersson. **Subs:** Lucic, Sundgren, Alexandersson, D. Andersson, Svensson, Osmanovski, Kihlstedt.

Referee: Jose Garcia-Aranda (Spain)

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	4	4	0	0	6	1	12
England	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Poland	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Bulgaria	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

MARK BOONICH



*Man. United
& Australia*